

“We have seen too many children whose eyes show only fear. If we cannot summon the courage to lay down the past for ourselves let us do it for the children”

— President Bush

“The road to this point was strewn with thousands of victims, with devastations and calamities suffered by whole peoples. It was marred by hatred and atrocities”

— President Gorbachev

Bush urges: choose peace, not war

Arabs and Israelis must compromise over land

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN MADRID

ISRAEL and her Arab enemies yesterday gathered round a negotiating table for the first time in 43 years of conflict as President Bush begged them to put an end to war and strive for peace.

In an impassioned address at the start of the Madrid conference, Mr Bush said Arab-Israeli peace need not be simply a dream, but it would require territorial compromise and proper treaties.

By calling for “territorial compromise”, Mr Bush was exerting pressure on Israel, even though he refrained from openly seeking a “land for peace” exchange — a proposition rejected by the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, hours before the conference opened. The American leader sweetened the pill by urging the Arabs to offer Israel proper peace treaties and guaranteed security.

Mr Bush acknowledged that the peace process would not be swift, but he urged the delegates: “We have seen too many generations of children whose haunted eyes show only fear, too many funerals for the brothers and sisters, the mothers and fathers who died too soon, too much hatred, too little love. If we cannot summon the courage to lay down the past for ourselves, let us resolve to do it for the children.”

Last night, delegates on all sides agreed that the conference had made a positive start, but the tense ceremony in the elegant surroundings of the 13th century Royal Oriente Palace had none of the warmth of President Sadat's peace-making with Egypt 12 years ago. With the exception of the Egyptians, the rival Jewish and Arab delegations

LAND FOR PEACE
Will Israel's leader surrender territory won on the battlefield of the Six Day war in answer to yesterday's appeal in Madrid from President Bush?Page 12

THE HOLY LAND
Fundamentalist Palestinians opposed to peace at any price battle it out with Arafat supporters.Page 11

Leading articlePage 19

spurned discreet attempts to encourage them to mingle and even refused eye contact. In the streets, a force of 12,000 heavily armed security men was a reminder that Muslim fanatics have threatened to sabotage any progress.

Opening the proceedings, Mr Bush said his objective was clear: “It is not simply to end the state of war in the Middle East and end it with a state of non-belligerency. This is not enough. This would not last. Rather, we seek peace, real peace, and by real peace, I mean treaties, security, diplomatic relations, economic relations, trade, investment, cultural exchanges.”

“For too long, the Israeli people have lived in fear, surrounded by an unaccepting Arab world. Now is the ideal moment for the Arab world to demonstrate that attitudes have changed, that the Arab world is willing to live in peace with Israel.”

“We know that peace must also be based on fairness. This applies above all to the Palestinian people, many of whom have known turmoil and frustration above all else. Israel now has an opportunity to demonstrate that it is willing to enter into a new relationship.”

“Throughout the Middle East, we seek a stable and enduring settlement. We've not defined what this means; indeed, I make these points

with no map showing where the final borders are to be drawn. Nevertheless, we believe territorial compromise is essential for peace.”

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, welcomed “the conciliatory nature” of Mr Bush's speech. But she and fellow Palestinian leader, Faisal Husseini, expressed disappointment that the president did not come out firmly for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands and recognition of Palestinian national rights.

Yossi Ben Aharon, an aide to Mr Shamir, expressed satisfaction that Mr Bush had called for territorial compromise rather than a land-for-peace formula, but Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's deputy foreign minister, said Israel had already given up 91 per cent of the territories. He hoped compromise did not mean that it would be asked to give 100 per cent while the other side was asked to give zero. “That is not at least my view of compromise,” he said.

Mr Bush was joined in launching the conference by President Gorbachev, who said: “We have a unique opportunity. It would be unforgivable to miss it.” The Soviet leader said that the conference had become possible because of the end of the cold war and, like Mr Bush, he highlighted the region's violent past, saying: “The road to this point was strewn with



Across a crowded room: Yitzhak Shamir, left, keeps his eyes averted from the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation before him at the negotiating table

Madrid teams adopt hands-off diplomacy amid coy glances

Richard Beeston reports from Madrid that, despite the superpower smiles, the Middle East barriers remain firm

Like reluctant adolescent boys and girls attending their first school dance, Arabs and Israelis yesterday exchanged shy glances but studiously avoided each other when they came together for the first time in Madrid's royal palace.

Despite the smiles and encouragement from their superpower guardians, Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, the Arab envoys and the Israeli leader appeared in no hurry to break down the physical and psychological barriers.

If the issues at stake were not quite so vital to the lives of millions of inhabitants in the Middle East, the failure of the parties to shake hands or acknowledge each other in the cramped space of the Room of Columns would have given the proceedings an almost comic touch.

Fares Bourez, the Lebanese foreign minister, appeared to have drawn the short straw among Arab representatives since he was placed next to

Israeli leader. One man who was not taking any chances at the opening session was Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister and delegation leader, who vowed before the conference opened that he would not shake the hand of the Israeli delegation leader. He had himself seated as far away from the Israeli team as physically possible and on the way out of the palace deliberately lingered at the back in the unlikely event that Mr Shamir might try to ambush him with an outstretched hand.

Further theatrics were provided by some of the delegation members themselves, such as Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian journalist, who was silenced by his fellow

delegation members for announcing that the team was selected by the PLO, which is banned from taking part. Although he was not allowed to speak yesterday, he made sure that his message was still clear to the world by draping a keffiyeh scarf, symbol of the Palestinian struggle, around his Western business suit.

Although Egypt and Spain attempted to smooth the way, the proceedings are likely to remain frosty for the foreseeable future, not least because many of the participants have only recently given up describing each other in less than respectful terms, particularly the Israelis and Syrians, who engage in regular propaganda swipes at each other.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

WOMEN'S VIEWS



Lesley Abdela is one of many women who have written to the Editor about John Major's Opportunity 2000 initiative. A selection of their views on the problems faced by women appears today. Page 19

HOT HOUSE



Laura Dern plays the oversexed teenager who turns a homestead upside down in the new film, *Rambling Rose*, reviewed on Page 17

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Charter sets out 10 NHS commandments

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS were given a new bill of rights yesterday setting out “ten commandments” for quicker and better treatment in the national health service.

Under the patient's charter, to be implemented next April, treatment is guaranteed within two years, access to full information on local health services is ensured and an undertaking given that complaints will be dealt with.

John Major, the prime minister, said the charter marked the first time that a government had introduced national standards for the NHS. “By implementing these fundamental rights we have signalled our commitment to preserving and improving the

standards of care,” said Mr Major.

Launching the charter, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, made clear that the government was committed to the fundamental principles of the NHS and said patients should always be put first. “These are the ten commandments on which the service will be based from April 1992,” he said.

However, there was criticism for the government last night for failing to back the charter with additional resources.

Commitment, page 6
Hot air remedied, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Freed Ellis is ordered back home

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DESMOND ELLIS, the first paramilitary suspect to be handed over by Irish police for trial at the Central Criminal Court, was yesterday acquitted of taking part in an IRA bomb plot.

The jury accepted that Mr Ellis, aged 39, was not in Britain during the bombing. He was immediately rearrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and served with an exclusion order banning him from the mainland, according to his solicitor. He was expected to be flown home to Dublin.

Fall report, page 3

Mobutu ‘planning to escape Zaire’

From NICHOLAS KOTCH IN KINSHASA

AS TROOPS loyal to the regime took to the streets of Kinshasa last night to put down demonstrations, speculation mounted that President Mobutu was on the point of fleeing Zaire. There were reports from Nigeria and Belgium that a presidential plane had landed in Lagos.

The future of Marshal Mobutu was put in further doubt yesterday after France and Belgium announced that they would withdraw all their troops soon. The troops were dispatched last month when growing unrest threatened the safety of French and Belgian nationals.

In Kinshasa, Etienne Tshisekedi, the opposition

leader whom the president has rejected as prime minister, said that dialogue was over. Mangulu Diaka, the president's new choice, was rejected by the opposition. But security forces loyal to the regime came out in strength to discourage any protests over the anticipated announcement of a new government. Lorries carrying troops were seen moving through the capital.

Mr Tshisekedi told reporters that dialogue between the opposition and the Mobutu camp was over. “The bridges have been cut. Now it is the people's turn to speak,” he said.

Troops withdraw, page 10

An astronomical Tudor star is discovered

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A LONG-FORGOTTEN Elizabethan mathematician and surveyor, Leonard Digges, was yesterday named as the inventor of the astronomical telescope.

Fifty years before the first telescopes came on sale in Holland, Digges and his son Thomas were gazing at the stars with the ancestor of the instruments used by modern astronomers, according to Colin Roman, president of the British Astronomical Association.

Hitherto, the honour of producing the first telescopes has been given to two Dutchmen, Hans Lippershey and Zacharias Jansen, around 1608. Within a year, Galileo was using an improved version of the Dutch telescope to study the

heavens and lend support to the theories of Copernicus.

After studying documents in the British Museum, Mr Roman believes that Leonard Digges anticipated them all — and with an instrument that used reflection rather than refraction, and is thus closer to a modern telescope than devices Galileo used. He explained his theory in a presidential address to the association in London last night.

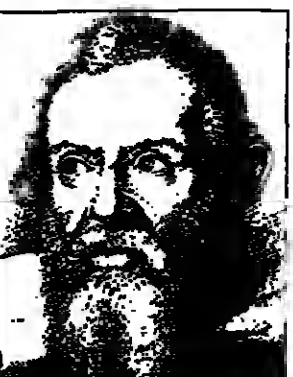
The main evidence comes in a work completed by the younger Digges, and published in 1576 in homage to his late father. The book contains a description of “the marvellous conclusions that may be performed by glasses concave or convex, or circular or parabolic forms” and asserts that the elder Digges had

used combinations of lenses and mirrors for magnification.

In the British Museum, Mr Roman found a manuscript letter of the early 1580s from William Bourne, a friend of Thomas Digges, to Lord Burghley, Elizabeth I's Lord High Treasurer. It asserts that Thomas Digges's claims were true and gives information about the use of mirrors and lenses.

Mr Roman believes the device's military potential may have discouraged publicity. By 1591, Thomas Digges was master-master for English forces in The Netherlands. A device for seeing great distances would have had military value.

Venus photographed, page 14
Leading article, page 19



Galileo: star-spotted with Dutch-style telescope

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Major flies home to tackle morale and Maastricht mini revolt



Major: eight days away may have been too long

HAROLD Macmillan used to advise MPs: "By all means rebel, young man, but only on one issue at a time." If he had had advice for young prime ministers it would probably have been: "By all means travel abroad, but not too often, or for too long."

Summer travels proved profitable for John Major, who earned himself a respected position on the world stage. But eight days at the Commonwealth conference proved to be several too long for a chaffing prime minister who has returned to find his party dipping in the opinion polls, ministers at odds over tax concessions and the Conservative party assailed by an air of drift. Tory MPs are not too hopeful that today's Queen's Speech will enable Mr Major to stop the rot by putting his personal stamp on domestic policy as he launches the final session of this

The Tories have drafted a workmanlike programme in the Queen's Speech today but will it win the votes? Robin Oakley reports

parliament. Party strategists always expected a dip in Tory fortunes after a November election was ruled out. They are still in the painful phase of trying to exhaust health as a talking point before the general election. Party morale is likely to suffer further from the by-election defeats anticipated in Langbaurgh and in Kincardine and Deeside. Domestic politics is overshadowed by the looming Maastricht summit on which the Tory party appears more divided than Labour.

The programme on offer today, while demonstrating that the government retains its energy, is hardly one likely to send the

opinion polls swinging back in the Tories' favour. The central item in the programme is the bill to set up the new property-based council tax to replace the community charge in 1993. To get it through in time, ministers will drive it fast, scheduling the second reading early next month in the hope of completing its Commons stages before Christmas. But by no means all Tories are convinced that this particular method of sinking the Thatcherite flagship is the best one and the wrangles to come will prove a reminder to the electorate of just who it was who gave them the poll tax anyway. There will be a bill to implement

sections of the citizen's charter by improving the regulation of privatised gas, water and electricity industries and the Post Office. Another will enable the government to set up its league tables by forcing schools to publish their examination results and truancy records. The Home Office programme will include the new bill to restrict what ministers see as the abuses of asylum procedures, a bill to tighten the controls over charities, and further measures to control dangerous dogs and prevent the laundering of drug trade profits. Another bill will contain measures to create the new offence of joyriding.

It may be a practical, workmanlike programme for a parliament which will have to end in May at the latest but it does not provide what the Tories still lack: the string on which to thread their baubles, a

consistent and uplifting theme to offer the electorate. Parliament is likely to be dominated, at least in the run-up to Christmas, less by the legislative programme than by the repercussions of the Maastricht summit. There at least there are signs that Mr Major may not face as much trouble as predicted in some quarters. The whips are relaxed enough as yet not even to have begun the numbers game. Downing Street may have missed a trick by allowing Norman Tebbit to feel unloved and ready to demonstrate his ability to wound. But the Thatcher factor may be more terrifying in prospect than in reality. Some of her allies believe that the last thing she would want to do is to pick up the blame for losing her party an election by fomenting rebellion at the worst possible time.

And one of those close to her

knows how the whips will play it. When it comes to soliciting votes on a Maastricht package from those who share her Euro-scepticism, he reckons, the pitch will go like this: "Once we'd signed the Single European Act in the time of You Know Who, all that has happened since became inevitable. Can you see a better way around it than what the government has achieved?"

The sea-green incorruptibles who fail to bend at that point will get the second barrel: "OK. So you don't like the deal. But do you really want to help into office a Labour leader who has promised to take a much softer line with Europe's hard bargainers?" On that pitch, he predicts, there will be no more than a mini-rebellion. But the Tories still have to do more than keep out of trouble to turn around those opinion polls.

Lawyers may sue Lord Chancellor

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Maekay of Clashfern, is facing being taken to court by solicitors angry over delays of several months in the payment of their bills for legal aid work.

The Law Society is expected to back the challenge, likely to be mounted by one or two legal aid firms on behalf of the whole profession. The Bar may also support the action.

The legal profession has sued the Lord Chancellor once before, in 1986 when Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone was taken to court over the low level of legal aid fees. The action forced an improved out-of-court settlement.

Yesterday Russell Wallman, the society official in charge of legal aid, said: "Legal action is now a very real possibility. The situation on the criminal side is now appalling in London and very bad in Manchester."

Anthony Edwards, secretary of the London Criminal Courts' Solicitors' Association, confirmed that there would be strong support for legal action against the Lord Chancellor.

The Law Society's remuneration committee is expected to decide in the next

two weeks whether to recommend that the society back legal action. Mr Wallman said that initial soundings, obtained from counsel by one law firm and also from the Law Society's in-house legal advisers, were "certainly not discouraging".

Delays in the payment of big criminal legal aid bills are now more than six months in London. Payment in long-running civil cases can take up to three years, and never less than 18 months. That means solicitors funded cases from their own pockets at least for 18 months or delayed working for clients until 18 months were up and payment due, Mr Wallman said.

Mr Edwards said that the big criminal firms were in particular trouble. Without urgent action, firms would go out of business. His East End firm had about £80,000 tied up in unpaid bills.

He said that the courts would have to decide whether there was an implied requirement on the Government to pay solicitors' bills in a reasonable period of time, and whether the facts supported the view that payments were not being made within a reasonable time.



ANDY WATTS

Armed presence: a policeman carrying a gun at Old Fold Manor golf club, north London, yesterday as the course was being cleared of about 70 golfers during a search for a gang of robbers (Stewart Tisdall writes). The gang had blasted a police car after an attack on a security firm's van went wrong. The robbery began at Biggell's Corner near a service station off the M25 near Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, and ended with

a chase through country roads to Barnet on the outskirts of London. Two of the gang climbed into the van with two guards and the third guard was bundled in to a Ford Orion car with another two robbers. Police gave chase and the robbers were forced to abandon the van and their car. As the gang split up and fled, one man threatened a housewife on her doorstep and stole her car. Two of the men escaped across the golf course.

Haughey urged to resign

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, faced renewed calls for his resignation yesterday over allegations that he lied to the Dáil over his role in the privatisation of Irish Sugar last year.

In the first attempt directly to link Mr Haughey to scandals which involve many of his close friends and associates and which have badly damaged the government, Dick Spring, the Irish Labour party leader, said it was clear "a statement last week by Mr Haughey, denying he had met the chairman of the sugar company, was untrue."

In the light of newspaper reports at the weekend confirming that meetings did take place — a fact confirmed independently by Bernie Cabill, chairman of Irish Sugar, during an extraordinary general meeting in Dublin yesterday — Mr Spring said Mr Haughey should resign.

"When a prime minister lies to parliament," Mr Spring told Mr Haughey during yet another dramatic session of the Dáil, "there is only one course of action. I put it to you, sir, that you should resign from your office."

Mr Haughey, who is widely expected to resign early in the New Year, denied that he had made any suggestions to Mr Cabill about a role for company National City Brokers, owned by a former close friend. In the event, the company was retained for the privatisation.

New future for a home lost in time

CHASTLETON House, the Jacobean manor that has remained virtually unaltered since it was built in 1602, was yesterday handed over to the National Trust.

The sale of the house, the first time it has been on the open market, ended uncertainty over its future after its last owner, Barbara Clutton-Brock, was unable to carry out urgent repairs to prevent it falling down.

The National Trust, which does not purchase property, had hoped that the house would be bequeathed to the nation, but the family decided to sell it instead.

Last week it was bought for £2 million by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, an organisation set up by the government in 1980 to acquire and preserve heritage at risk. Lord Charteris, the fund's chairman, explained at the house yesterday why he had decided to hand it over to the National Trust.

"Although we have never bought a house before we felt Chastleton was of such historical importance that we had to create a precedent. It is a great moment for me to hand this much loved house over to the nation," he said.

Urgent repairs to make the building watertight are due to start immediately. The National Trust has estimated that a further £9.5 million is needed to restore the house.

English Heritage has agreed an £800,000 grant, the National Heritage Memorial Fund has agreed to provide £4 million and the National Trust has £4.2 million from its own resources. The rest of the

The National Trust has won its long fight for ownership of Chastleton House. Ray Clancy writes

money will come from a public appeal. Stepping inside Chastleton is like walking into a time-warped. The rotten front doors hide a wealth of historical interest and intrigue.

It was within these walls that Charles I is reputed to have hidden when fleeing the Roundheads. Original civil war armour covered with a thick layer of dust still hangs on the walls of the great hall of this Oxfordshire house.

According to the experts, the very poverty that struck the successive owners has led to so much being preserved. "It was the Lloyd's building of the 17th century," said Martin Drury, the National Trust's historic buildings secretary.

Rare tapestries still hang on the walls, the intricate stitching and colours remarkably bright and preserved, and hand stitched covers lie on the beds. Pomgranates, an ancient fertility symbol, are carved into the plaster work plasterwork and 1950s wallpaper mixes curiously with 18th century furniture.

Experts agree that a great deal of careful restoration is needed but the National Trust does not want to spoil the atmosphere. Mr Drury said there were no plans for a shop or tea-room.

Pension loss affects 160,000

More than 160,000 elderly people could be losing pension payments as a result of massive faults in the social security system uncovered by a parliamentary enquiry.

About 130,000 of those between 60 and 80, mainly women, were entitled to claim more than £5 a week each.

Sir John Bourn, Britain's public spending auditor, ordered an investigation by his National Audit Office staff into the controls on National Insurance contributions totalling £35.6 billion after finding errors in last year's accounts from the social security department.

In the report Sir John rebuked the department for widespread underpayment of NI contributions and faults in the records of 770,000 contributors in 1989/90.

Court backs deportation

The government won the rare backing of the European Court of Human Rights yesterday when it said Britain was right to send home five Tamils from Sri Lanka who were denied political asylum.

The Home Office decision in 1988 was justified despite the insistence of the five that they faced persecution, if forced to return, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg said yesterday. The Tamils arrived from Sri Lanka at various times in 1987.

£2m pools win for widow



A woman whose husband died two months ago has won £2,072,220 on the pools for a 54p stake. Rodi Woodcock, above, aged 51, from south London, became the first pools double millionaire by correctly predicting seven score draws.

John Nettles, the TV detective Bergerac, handed over her cheque at the Grosvenor House hotel, London, yesterday. Romanian-born Mrs Woodcock said she would use her winnings "to try to see the world".

Alzheimer hope

HOPES for effective drug treatments for Alzheimer's disease, which affects more than 500,000 people in the UK, have been raised by a research group at St Mary's Hospital medical school, London, which reports in today's issue of *Nature* finding evidence that the disease is caused by excessive amounts of the protein amyloid.

Health, page 15

Soldiers for trial

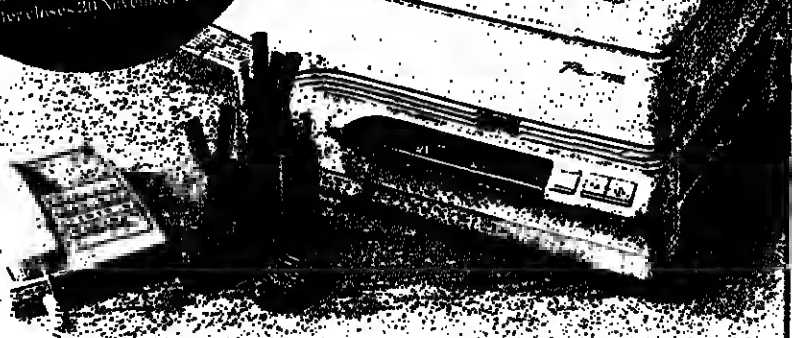
Six paratroopers were yesterday sent for trial at Belfast crown court following the deaths of two joyriders in September last year in Belfast. The six variously face charges of murder, attempted murder and trying to pervert the course of justice.

By the Times News Service
Austria: 100% (1990) 9.7% (1991)
Canada: 52.7% (1990) 5.7% (1991)
France: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Germany: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Greece: 5.0% (1990) 0.5% (1991)
Italy: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Japan: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Netherlands: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Portugal: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Spain: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Sweden: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
Switzerland: 12.0% (1990) 1.0% (1991)
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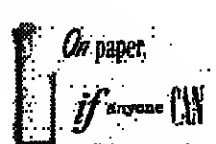
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Ellis cleared of IRA bomb plot charges and ordered home

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND STEWART TENDLER

DESMOND Ellis, the first paramilitary suspect to be extradited from the Irish Republic to stand trial in Britain, was expected to be sent home to Dublin after being cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of taking part in an IRA bombing plot.

The former television repair man was rearrested at the Old Bailey under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and served with an exclusion order before being taken to Paddington Green police station where arrangements were being made for his return to the republic.

Mr Ellis, aged 39, remained emotionless in the dock as the jury returned a unanimous verdict after deliberations lasting three hours. The jury accepted a defence case which included the argument that Mr Ellis was not in Britain during the bombing and that he had already served eight years in Portlaoise jail on explosives charges which meant that trying him again constituted double jeopardy. During the trial his counsel said he had acted unlawfully, had deserved to be punished and was.

Yesterday through his solicitor Gareth Peirce, the freed man said: "This is not just a victory for the Irish

people but a victory for the British people. I want to express my thanks to the jury."

The prosecution had alleged that, although he never set foot on the mainland, Mr Ellis's fingerprints were found on devices discovered by forestry workers in a cache of arms near Pangbourne, Berkshire, in October 1983. According to the prosecution the cache had links with a bomb blitz in which three people were killed in London in 1981 when four devices exploded and one was made safe. Among the injured during the campaign was Lieutenant-General Sir Stenart Pringle, commander general of the Royal Marines, who lost his right leg when his car exploded outside his home in Dulwich.

Mr Ellis admitted during his trial he had worked for the IRA in 1980 in Dublin where he was arrested and jailed for eight years on explosives charges. He told the Central Criminal Court he had "no idea whatsoever" of any plan to set off bombs in Britain in the early Eighties and had always felt that such attacks were counterproductive.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for Mr Ellis, had told the jury Mr Ellis had already served

"long years in prison" in Ireland for helping the IRA in 1980 only to be brought back to Britain to be punished again for what he did in 1981. "No civilised society allows anyone to be punished again for the same offence," Mr Robertson said.

The bombing campaign in London in late 1981 included the attack on a coachload of Irish Guardsmen returning to Chelsea barracks in which two members of the public were killed and several people injured. Other targets included Lord Havers, the then Attorney-general, but he and his wife were away when two bombs were left outside his home in Wimbledon. Another bomb at a Wimpey Bar in Oxford Street exploded killing Kenneth Howarth, an explosives officer.

Mr Ellis, from Finglas, Dublin, had denied conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or cause serious damage to property in the UK between January 1981 and October 27 1983. A second charge on which he was also extradited from Dublin last year - of possession of explosives - was dropped by the judge halfway through his trial.

Mr Ellis was arrested by special branch detectives at his home on May 13, 1981, months before the attacks. Detectives raided the house and found electronic timing devices, batteries, holts and a circuit board.

Mr Ellis was extradited in November last year on charges under the Explosives Substances Act of conspiring in the United Kingdom to cause an explosion likely to endanger life between January 1981 and October 1983.

The magistrate refused to commit Mr Ellis on the original charges and substituted two new charges alleging conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm by use of explosive substances and conspiracy to cause criminal damage. The magistrate's action "unwittingly stirred up an international hornet's nest," Mr Robertson said. Under international law, no one who had been extradited could be tried for offences other than those on which they had been extradited.

In May this year, the Director of Public Prosecutions applied to the High Court to quash the magistrate's directive, apparently to give it carte blanche to bring back the original charges. The application was refused.

In Dublin the acquittal of Mr Ellis was seen last night by all except republicans as a significant step forward in Anglo-Irish extradition and a development likely to make exchanges of suspects easier (Edward Gorman writes).

The decision to free Mr Ellis has undermined the case of those in Ireland, inside the main government party Fianna Fail and in Sinn Féin, who argued that no republican suspect could ever get a fair trial in a British court.



Ellis: latest in line of extradition acquittals

Father is jailed for murder of daughter

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the murder of his six-week-old daughter. Robert Rouse aged 22, was also convicted of cruelty to the girl, Sudio Porsche Carrera who on the social services at-risk register.

The jury had heard that Sudio, who already had three fractured ribs, died when Rouse, "unable to stand the sound of her crying any more" picked her up by her leg and swung her into the wall. The blow so ferocious that it dented the plaster.

John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that both parents covered their tracks by filling the dent with newspaper and mopping up blood traces. Some hours later they took her to hospital where doctors found she had skull and rib fractures, a broken leg and a fractured collar bone.

Rouse, of Croydon, south London, was also convicted of cruelty to Sudio's elder sister, Baby Y, who cannot be named for legal reasons, but cleared on a second cruelty charge against her. He admitted a further charge of assaulting the older girl.

Rouse showed no emotion as Judge Smedley passed sentence on the murder charge and imposed a concurrent six-year jail sentence on the others. The



Robert Rouse, top, jailed for the murder of Sudio, right. The baby's mother Lindsay Morris, left, admitted cruelty

judge, recalling that a foster mother had described Baby Y as a bag of bones, unable to pull her legs behind her, said: "To my mind, it is almost inconceivable that anyone could watch a child so deteriorate and not take action to relieve the obvious pain and distress that child was going through."

Sudio's mother, Lindsay Morris, aged 19, was acquitted last week of murdering

her on the direction of the judge. Morris has admitted three charges of cruelty to her daughters and will be sentenced later.

The family came to the notice of Croydon social workers after they took Baby Y to hospital on Christmas morning 1989. She was severely underweight and had multiple bruises. She was put on the at risk register and placed with a foster

mother. In early May 1990, when Morris was pregnant with Sudio, Baby Y was returned to her parents as they seemed to have learned how to cope. Between May and November, social workers and health visitors noticed various marks and bruises on Baby Y.

After Sudio was born she was put on the at risk register and seen by social workers and health visitors, but in the

week before her death no-one answered the door at the couple's flat. Both parents, neither of whom gave evidence, repeatedly denied ill-treating their children or seeing the other do so.

After the verdict, David Townsend, Croydon social services director, said that Sudio's death was "deeply regrettable", but he was satisfied that social workers followed procedures.



Tortuous history of court failures

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE acquittal yesterday of Desmond Ellis brings a fresh twist to Britain's tortuous attempts to extradite paramilitary suspects from the Irish Republic. In the past decade the Irish courts have released only a handful of defendants to Belfast courts.

There are no other such extradition cases to an English court pending, although Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch has a list of about a dozen major suspects that it would like to extradite.

The recent history of extradition between the Republic, Ulster and England has been a catalogue of disasters and embarrassing blunders. The republic's 1965 Extradition Act allowed courts to refuse British warrants if the offences were considered political and as a result, throughout the 1970s, Irish courts refused to hand over suspects.

In 1982 the Irish courts limited the scope for a political defence. Dominic McGlinchey, a former leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, was sent back to Ulster to stand trial for the murder of an elderly postmistress after the Irish supreme court decided a political offence had to be an offence which reasonable, civilised people would accept as political activity. He was acquitted for lack of evidence.

In 1985 John Quinn, an alleged INLA member, was

sent to Britain to face fraud charges. The Irish court said that since the INLA's aims included the overthrow of the Irish constitution, members of such a group could not claim a political justification for their deeds. In London Quinn was acquitted.

In 1986 the Yard attempted to extradite Evelyn Glenboines for her alleged part in the same 1980s London bombings for which Mr Ellis was tried. The Irish court decided the warrants contained technical defects.

Co-operation should have improved with the signing in 1987 of new extradition laws built on a European convention on the suppression of terrorism, but since then there has been a catalogue of failures to extradite IRA suspects.



Ellis: latest in line of extradition acquittals

Home boss says MP abused boy

A FORMER children's home boss yesterday told a court that he counselled a boy in care who had been sexually abused and abused by Greville Janner, the Labour MP for Leicester West. It was alleged the youngster was sexually assaulted by the MP over a two-year period.

The claim was made by Frank Beck, aged 49, who was giving evidence at Leicester crown court. Beck denies 27 charges of sexual and physical abuse of children and former members of staff over a 13-year period up until 1978.

He said that a lot of youngsters in his care at the Ratcliffe Road children's home, Leicester, had sexual experience. "One child has been buggered and abused for two solid years by Greville Janner," he said.

Beck, formerly of Leicester, denied he had physically abused children. The trial continues today.

Stephen Pollard, of Kingsley Napley, lawyers for Mr Janner, said in a statement to the Press Association: "All we can say within the constraints of the Contempt of Court Act is that since the trial is continuing at Leicester crown court the matter is sub judice."

"We have therefore advised Greville Janner that he is prevented from making any statements at this stage."

Ken Barlow actor attacks QC's line

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE actor behind Ken Barlow, the longest-surviving inhabitant of *Coronation Street*, yesterday made an impassioned plea for understanding in the High Court.

Bill Roache, who has played Ken since *Coronation Street* began 31 years ago, is suing *The Sun* over an article alleging that he was as boring as personally as Ken. Mr Roache told the court that Ken was not really boring, just "a sad and tragic figure".

The article, published last November, also claimed that the actor was smug and self-satisfied, had frequently come close to being sacked, and was hated by other members of the cast, about which Mr Roache also complains.

Mr Roache seemed near tears yesterday when David Eady, QC, for *The Sun*, questioned him about parts of the article over which he is not suing. Mr Roache said he had not sued on those aspects, referring to events over 20 years ago, to spare his family embarrassment. When Mr Eady raised them, he protested: "This is adding to the injury."

Mr Roache said: "I didn't go into it because the press are watching this case very closely and I didn't want to distress my wife and family, but I think it damages and libels me as much as anything else. It

happened in the 60s when I was married to my first wife. She was in London and I lived in Manchester from Monday to Friday. I admit I behaved badly and I paid the price. That marriage ended in divorce. I've been happy with my wife Sara for 19 years."

Mr Roache, plainly distressed, told Mr Eady that he did not require an adjournment, but continued: "I think you are behaving like *The Sun*. I didn't bring this up... my children are at school, and I don't see why I should have to go through it."

Mr Justice Waterhouse agreed to Mr Eady's suggestion that the jury could read the rest of the article without it being read in court.

Earlier, Mr Eady made a public apology to Mr Roache on behalf of *The Sun's* editor and publisher about the headline "Hated by cast". Mr Eady said he was now instructed to say that the word "hated" was "clearly inappropriate".

The degree of identity between Mr Roache and his *Street* character was a recurring theme. There was laughter when Mr Eady inadvertently addressed him as "Mr Barlow".

Mr Roache said he was different from Barlow, whose actions were determined by script writers.

The case continues today.

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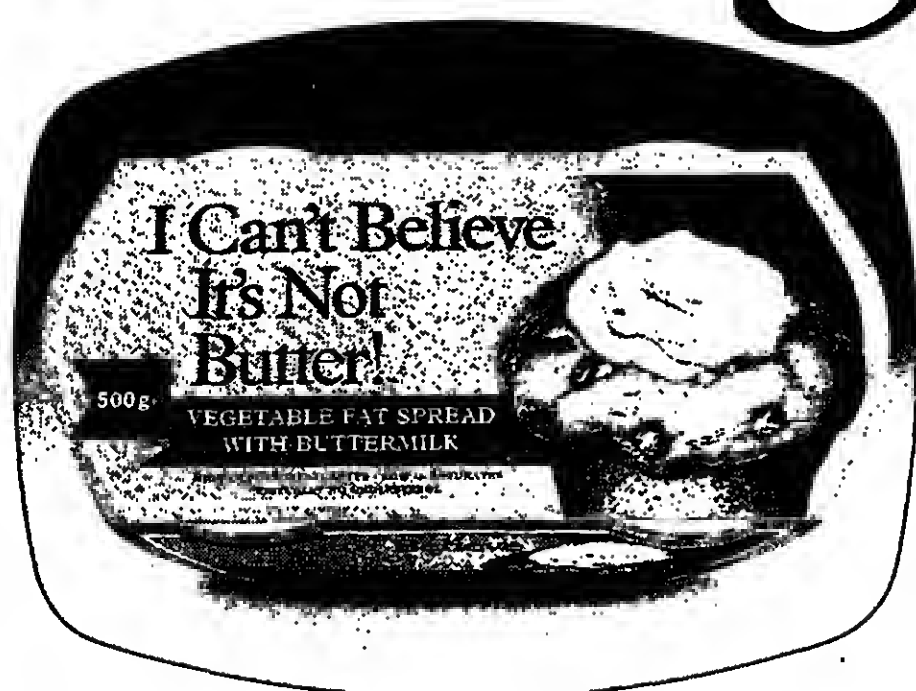
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decided to call it "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!"

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Major hails commitment to improving standards

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A PATIENT'S charter which sets out national standards for health services for the first time and could lead to shorter waits for hospital treatment, was announced by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday.

The most ambitious pledge in the charter is a guarantee that patients will be treated within two years of being put on a consultant's list. There is no national guarantee on how long a patient referred by a GP must wait for an outpatient appointment, although a range of targets will be set locally.

Health authorities are also expected to ensure that all patients are seen in outpatient clinics within 30 minutes of arrival. If an operation is cancelled more than once, the patient should be admitted within one month of the date of the cancelled operation, says the charter.

The health department is spending £2 million to send a summary of the charter to every household in England, spelling out the rights patients will have from April.

Mr Waldegrave gave no promises of extra resources to back up the guarantees in the charter but made clear that he expects authorities to use their

muscle as purchasers in the new internal market to ensure the standards are met. Quality standards will be written into contracts with all hospitals, including NHS trusts. If these were not fulfilled business would be diverted elsewhere, he suggested. If guarantees were not met authorities could get their money back.

The prime minister said the charter signalled a commitment to preserving and improving standards of care. "This is the first time that any government has put its weight behind a set of rights which all patients are entitled to under the NHS," said Mr Major.

The summary leaflet covers the seven existing patient rights, which include maximum ambulance waiting times, and nine standards which health authorities are expected to achieve. If any of the standards are not met, patients are invited to write to Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive.

"Mr Nichol will investigate the matter and if you have been denied a right he will take action to ensure that it is corrected," says the charter.

However, although Mr Waldegrave said the charter laid out ten "legal rights", few of these rights are backed by



Still waiting: outpatients must now be seen within 30 minutes, but the charter is vague on how long they must wait for an appointment

statute and a patient would have no legal redress in most cases. Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, immediately dismissed the charter as "toothless". It did nothing to restore rights patients had lost through the NHS reforms and said nothing about resources needed to make it a reality.

"The limit of two years on waiting time from outpatient appointment to operation is meaningless without tougher limits on the waiting time for the outpatient appointment," he said.

The British Medical Association said the two year maximum wait could penalise those needing urgent treat-

ment who might have to wait longer than before. At a press conference yesterday Mr Waldegrave made clear that different waiting time targets, which could range from over a year to only a few months, would be set for various conditions. Targets would become more ambitious over the years as the early goals were attained, he said.

Although it was unrealistic to set national guarantees to cover 40 million outpatient operations at this stage, he did not rule this out in the future.

The association of community health councils said the charter was a big disappointment and did nothing to

strengthen existing arrangements for representing patients' views. Linda Lamont, director of the Patients' Association, described the charter as "partly a public relations exercise", but said it would be beneficial if it helped patients realise what they should be entitled to expect. The Royal College of Midwives welcomed patients' rights to detailed information on local health services, which it said would help pregnant women make decisions on maternity care.

Health, page 15
Hot air remedy, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Regions set even tougher targets

SOME regions have already imposed much tougher standards than those outlined in the patient's charter (Jill Sherman writes).

Mersey region has set a one-year waiting list guarantee covering all hospitals and health authorities from April 1992. If a patient has waited more than a year for an operation from next April and no bed can be found locally, treatment will be guaranteed within three months at a private hospital or a hospital elsewhere in Britain.

If the hospital where the patient is first referred cannot meet the guarantee the region will ask the patient's GP to send the patient elsewhere, with a pledge to meet the cost.

In the past six months Mersey region has been operating a similar scheme for patients who have waited more than 18 months for treatment, on which the government's guarantee scheme is said to be based. So far, the region has not had to pay for an operation.

Last March all of the 418 patients waiting for over 18 months were treated by the end of July. A regional spokesman said yesterday that there were now 303 patients who had been waiting for 18 months, but he was confident that all these cases would also be treated locally.

There are now no patients waiting over two years for treatment in Mersey. About 2,600 are waiting for more than a year, a 25 per cent reduction from the previous

year. The region has also set targets for outpatient treatment, so that no patient will have to wait more than 13 weeks for an appointment with a consultant.

West Dorset health authority has set even tougher targets. The district has promised that if patients are not treated within six months, it will pay for operations elsewhere, contributing also to the cost of travel and accommodation for a relative.

West Dorset has 41 people (2 per cent of those needing treatment) waiting over a year and 747 (27 per cent) waiting for six months or more, many of whom need plastic surgery, orthopaedic operations and general surgery. A contract has been set up with Queen Mary's hospital in Roehampton, southwest London, for plastic surgery operations where the cost is about £200 lower than locally.

Trent regional health authority has set a target of 13 weeks for outpatient appointments. In the past 12 months waiting times for respiratory medicine at Glenfield hospital, Leicester have, fallen from eight to five weeks, for rheumatology from 13 weeks to two weeks and for general surgery from nine to six weeks.

The hospital claims that 95 per cent of non-urgent patients will be seen within eight weeks of a GP referral, urgent referrals within two weeks and that no patient will have to wait more than 30 minutes to see a consultant.



William Waldegrave launching the charter yesterday

MAIN POINTS

Every citizen already has the following rights under the National Health Service:

- ☐ To receive health care regardless of age, sex, race, religion, or social class.
- ☐ To be registered with a GP.
- ☐ To receive emergency medical care at any time.
- ☐ To be referred to a consultant when a GP thinks it necessary and to be referred for a second opinion if thought desirable.
- ☐ To be given a clear explanation of treatment proposed, including any risks and alternatives.
- ☐ To have access to two personal and confidential health records.
- ☐ To choose not to take part in medical research or student training.

From April 1, 1992, patients have three new rights:

- ☐ To be given information on local health services, quality standards and maximum waiting times.
- ☐ To be guaranteed treatment no later than two years from going on a waiting list.
- ☐ To have any complaint about NHS services investigated and to receive a full written reply from health authority executives or hospital general managers. Further complaints can be taken up with the Health Service Commissioner.

The NHS will be aiming to provide the following standards of service:

- ☐ Respect for privacy, dignity and religious and cultural beliefs.
- ☐ Arrangements to ensure everyone can use the services.
- ☐ Information to relatives and friends about treatment progress.
- ☐ Arrival of an ambulance within 15 minutes in urban areas, 19 minutes in rural areas.
- ☐ Immediate attention when attending an accident and emergency department.
- ☐ Specific appointment times for outpatient clinics, with a maximum waiting time of one month.
- ☐ Operations should not be cancelled on the day of arrival in hospital, if possible, unless it will be postponed for one month of the second cancellation.
- ☐ A named qualified nurse, midwife or health visitor will be responsible for nursing care.
- ☐ A decision about any continuing health or social care needs made before being discharged.
- ☐ In addition to National Charter Standards, from April 1, 1992, authorities will increasingly set and publicise clear Local Charter Standards.
- ☐ First outpatient appointments.
- ☐ Waiting times in accident and emergency departments.
- ☐ Waiting times for returning home after treatment, where a GP says there is medical need for NHS transport.
- ☐ Enquiry about and better monitoring of hospitals.
- ☐ Staff to wear name badges.

Nosebleed treatment cost £708

By PETER VICTOR

A BUSINESSMAN who successfully fought for a cut in a private clinic's £838 bill for treating his daughter's nosebleed called yesterday for a charter to protect private patients after he was landed with legal bills totalling £9,000.

Gerald Rosen's daughter Abigail, now aged 19, was treated at the Highgate clinic, London, three years ago. When billed for her treatment and overnight stay Mr Rosen refused to pay, saying that the bill, though covered by medical insurance, was exorbitant. The matter was settled out of court for £708 and Mr Rosen agreed to pay costs.

Now he has received claims from the clinic's lawyers for "about £9,000". Mr Rosen, of Hampstead, northwest London, said the legal bills were an attempt to "scare people from complaining". He said he hoped they would be reduced when tested in court. Harkbu Shah, clinic administrator, said that Mr Rosen had brought the legal bills on himself and that the original bill was justified. "He spent two years asking questions on costings," he denied that the costs claim was intended to frighten off others.

Glossy production may just mask the symptoms

A CURE at last for a chronic malaise, or merely a £2 million piece of cosmetic surgery? Only time, and the patients themselves, will decide the real value of the patient's charter.

If William Waldegrave's "ten commandments" of entitlement to the best that the health service can offer are to be observed, they will need more than the stated good intentions of government and the presumed goodwill of all those whose duty it already is to provide it.

The ten commandments boil down to seven rights that have existed since the foundation of the service in 1948. The other three are seductive guarantees on waiting time for treatment, information about services and standards, and a prompt response to complaints.

Like the *Health of the Nation* green paper, the charter is admirably ambitious. But while both documents are full of promises of a rosier future, they are short of recognition of today's realities.

From November 18, every household in England will receive a copy of the charter.

Good intentions are not enough to make the patient's charter work, writes Thomson Prentice

a glossy green and yellow 24-page booklet.

The colour photographs show a health service staffed by smiling nurses, dedicated doctors and caring consultants, working in bright wards, immaculate theatres and hospital receptions that look like the foyers of luxury hotels.

There is a helping hand at the old lady's side, medical hardware at the sick man's bed, hi-tech help for the newborn child. Most of the patients have both a doctor and a nurse in attendance.

This is the kind of NHS that patients dream about: clean and efficient, fast and friendly. It is the sort of service the government is committed to delivering.

The reality is very different. The charter guarantees admission for virtually all treatments by a specific date no later than two years from the day a consultant places a patient on the waiting list.

But there are legions of patients who never see a

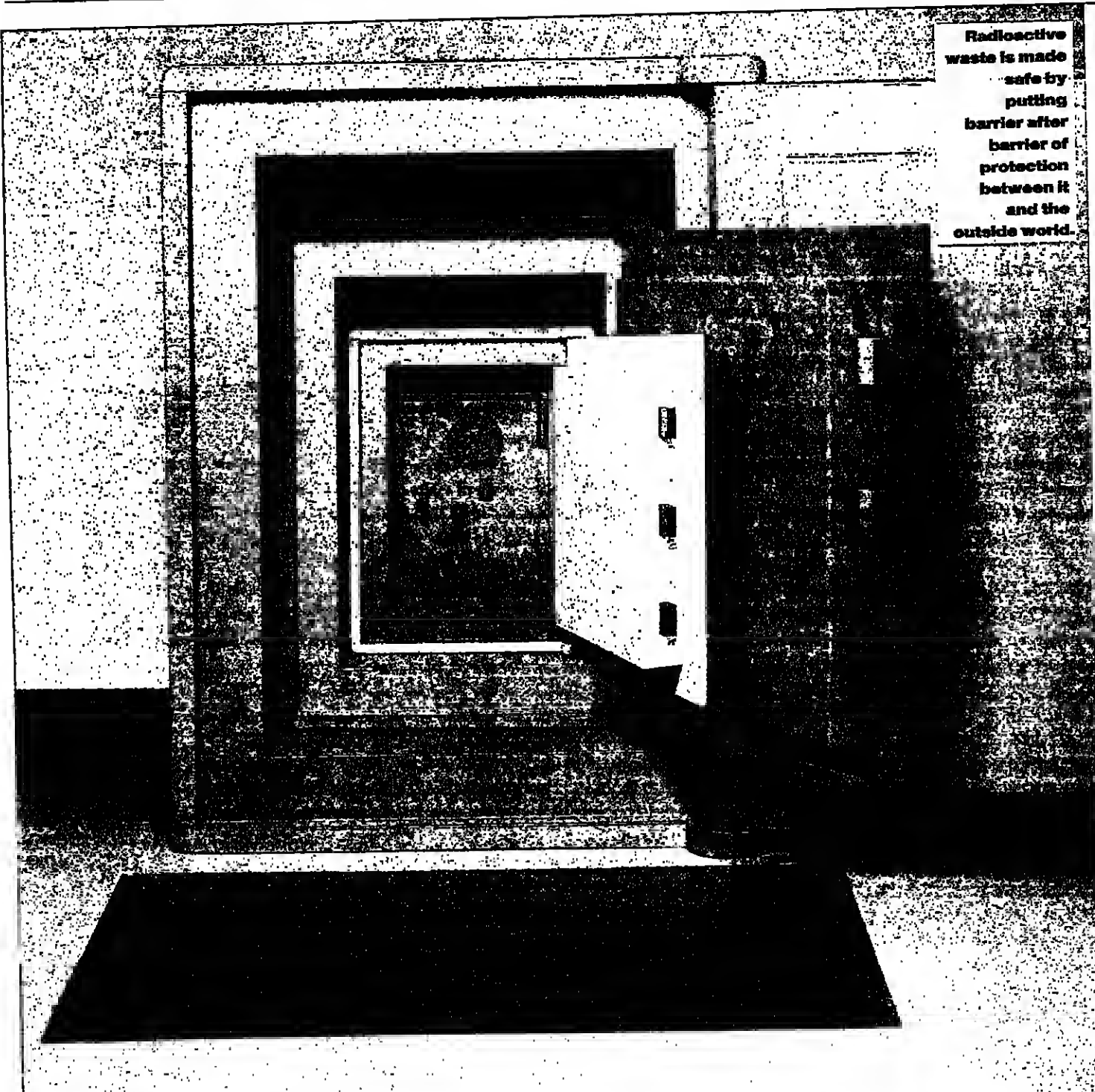
consultant, and scores of hospitals without a single consultant in many specialties.

"At least 150 cardiologists are needed in addition to the present total of 388 to provide even a modest level of service, which still would not match that in western Europe," said Douglas Chamberlain, president of the British Cardiac Society.

According to a report by the Royal College of Radiologists, Britain is near the bottom of an international league in the number of clinical oncologists who provide cancer treatment.

Most European countries have between six and ten times as many consultant neurologists per head of population as the UK, according to a joint report yesterday by 25 charities.

These are examples of the staff shortages in many branches of public health. How can waiting times for treatment be reduced without providing more doctors? The guarantee does not say. It guarantees full information about local health services and standards. But patients don't need to be well-informed if they are better treated.



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To put the amounts of waste into perspective, consider this: the UK produces over 4½ million cubic metres of poisonous waste every year. That's the equivalent volume of 50 Royal Albert Halls. But the volume of high-level radioactive waste produced over the past 30 years would fill no more than four double-decker buses.

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For a free information pack please write to the British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB. Or ring 0272 244750.

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**One has cerebral palsy.
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The baby on the left finds it hard to sit up.

In a month she might have the occasional spasm.

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In an ideal world, she'd turn to the law. In reality, she'll turn to The Spastics Society.

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Man cleared 10 years after being jailed for rape

By DAVID YOUNG

A MAN jailed ten years ago "until he reached old age" was freed yesterday after the Court of Appeal declared that his conviction for a series of rapes had been a miscarriage of justice.

John McGranaghan, aged 48, who had been found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of "horrific and nauseating" rapes and indecent assaults on three women, smiled and waved from the dock after his convictions were ruled wholly unsafe and unsatisfactory.

Mr McGranaghan, a property dealer of Tooting, southwest London, had lost his original appeal in 1982. The case was reopened after the organisation Justice investigated it and the Home Office received fresh scientific evidence. The evidence, from Roger Cook, a Metropolitan police forensic scientist, eliminated Mr McGranaghan as the attacker of the final victim in a case that had been conducted on the basis that the same man was responsible for all the offences.

Lord Justice Glidewell, quashing all the convictions and setting aside the life sentence, criticised the prosecution for not appreciating the importance of the scientific evidence, which had been available in 1981, and also the defence for advising Mr McGranaghan not to provide blood and saliva samples.

Lord Justice Glidewell, sitting with Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Buckley, described the attacks on a married couple and two women living alone, as horrific.

Mr McGranaghan, on his lawyers' advice, had not provided samples, the appeal judge said, and the Crown relied on the victims' descriptions of the rapist and the similarities in each case of the way the attacks were carried out.

The evidence from Mr Cook indicated that seminal stain on a cotton bedspread taken from the final victim's home could not have emanated from Mr McGranaghan.

The judge said that had the charges arising from the other attacks been tried separately, Mr McGranaghan could have been convicted, but the case was conducted on the basis that the attacks were so similar that it was highly likely the same man was responsible.

None of the convictions could now be regarded as safe. Lord Justice Glidewell said that at the trial the Crown had failed to appreciate that Mr Cook's report could have led to a reappraisal of the case that the same man had carried out all the attacks. The defence, had they seen the report, would have appreciated its importance.

Mr McGranaghan, who had been told by Judge Lawson at his trial that he should not be released until he reached old age, said: "I cannot believe it. I am just glad to be free and to know that this miscarriage of justice is finally over. I have been through years of hell in prison. Now I just want to pick up the pieces of my life. I'm bitter against the system which convicted me for crimes I never committed. I can't be bitter against the victims of the rapes for which I was convicted. I have suffered and so have they."

Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster, who backed the campaign for Mr McGranaghan, said the case showed the need for an independent forensic science service, with equal access for the defence.

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Mr McGranaghan, who had been told by Judge Lawson at his trial that he should not be released until he reached old age, said: "I cannot believe it. I am just glad to be free and to know that this miscarriage of justice is finally over. I have been through years of hell in prison. Now I just want to pick up the pieces of my life. I'm bitter against the system which convicted me for crimes I never committed. I can't be bitter against the victims of the rapes for which I was convicted. I have suffered and so have they."

Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster, who backed the campaign for Mr McGranaghan, said the case showed the need for an independent forensic science service, with equal access for the defence.

McGranaghan yesterday: beginning a new life

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Moment of solitude: Bill Allen, a national park ranger, takes a break on top of Haytor Rock during his guided walk of the park boundary

THE sun shone on Dartmoor yesterday to greet the 40th anniversary of its designation as a national park and the publication of a comprehensive plan for its future (John Young writes).

The report, by the National Park Authority, observes that the landscape of the moor has remained relatively stable for some 20,000 years, but that the pace of change in the past 40 years has been greater than at any previous time.

"Healthy heather and undamaged grass moor must dominate the ideal Dartmoor," it says. "That beholds the visitor and their hosts to treat moorland with such care that the word exploitation can no longer be applied to their activities."

The real enjoyment of fine quality landscape demands peace, quiet and lack of intrusion, it says. Graham Wall, the park authority's development control officer, said that present legislation referred to the protection of natural beauty and the promotion of enjoyment. It was now being suggested that the word enjoyment should be prefixed by "quiet".

The report says: "Respect for the peace and quiet which wide expanses of upland alone can offer in the 1990s must require blank ammunition, helicopters, low-flying jets, motorbikes, model

and workshop development will be necessary for the survival of local communities, but there should be no mineral workings, for example, unless they are essential in the national interest.

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Busy Dartmoor looks for a little peace and quiet

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Fire fumes killed cadet at army base

A woman army cadet aged 23 trapped in a burning house during a military exercise may have been dead before flames engulfed her body, an inquest at Alton, Hampshire, was told yesterday.

The charred body of Stephanie Gibbins was found by firemen in an army "training house" at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire, on July 30. Miss Gibbins, of Exton, Leicestershire, was in the Officer Training Corps while at Southampton Institute of Higher Education.

Roger Ainsworth, a pathologist, told the Andrew Bradley, the North Hampshire coroner, and a jury that death was due to inhalation of fumes. "She was possibly deeply unconscious if not dead, by the time the fire reached her," he said. The hearing continues today.

Magistrates at Taunton, Somerset, have cleared Lloyds Bank of using misleading advertising for mortgages. County trading standards officers said that a nationally-used poster in its Taunton branch gave inadequate prominence to a limitation to a special offer.

The Press Complaints Commission has rejected a complaint by two girls of 17 upset at a photograph appearing in a national newspaper of them sunbathing topless on a Bourne mouth beach. The commission said that they had been in a public place.

A book borrowed 39 years ago has been returned during a month-long fines amnesty at Humber public libraries. More than 11,000 books, with fines of over £18,000 and a replacement value of £110,000, were returned.

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Fire fume
killed
cadet at
army base

Bank cleared

Picture back

Late home

Party rivalry

Baby seized

have
O
n our
me.



**One has a place at her local school.
The other was turned away.**

The girl with cerebral palsy couldn't get into her local state school.

Not because she lacked intelligence. But because the school had too many stairs.

For want of a few ramps she'll probably leave school unable to

get further education, training or employment. But this is by no means the greatest failure.

As long as able and disabled children are in separate schools how can they learn to respect each other?

How can they learn to under-

stand, tolerate and live with each other? They say integration will happen one day. But at The Spastics Society we can't sit around and wait.

We're opening pre-school centres for children. With and without cerebral palsy.

And setting up units alongside mainstream schools to provide therapy for disabled pupils on top of their lessons.

Children with cerebral palsy have a huge contribution to make to society. Please make a contribution to The Spastics Society.

To: The Spastics Society. FREEPOST.
PO Box 38, Liverpool L69 1TR.

I wish to donate £..... by cheque/p.o.
I wish to pledge £..... per month.
To donate by credit card, call 071-388 3551.

Please send more information about The Spastics Society's work to help people with cerebral palsy. ☐ T11

Name
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40th Anniversary 1992
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

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British-German EC talks

Kohl wants compromise with Major

By MICHAEL BINYON IN LEIPZIG AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

GERMANY sent out signals yesterday that it is seeking to smooth over disagreements with Britain in advance of John Major's meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, tomorrow.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, said after talks in Leipzig with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that Germany understood well that Britain, because of its history and traditions, had the furthest to go on the road to European unity, and spoke of Germany's "ability to compromise". The meeting between Mr Major and Herr Kohl will be one of the most

important which the prime minister holds before the summit. Herr Kohl is the one EC leader who can design and enforce a compromise: he can lean on President Mitterrand of France and Mr Major but sympathises with both.

Yesterday, the two sides made it clear they wanted to see a treaty on political union signed, or at least drawn up, at the Maastricht summit. British officials rejected suggestions that Downing Street would welcome a delay, saying the issues had to be faced and the sooner the better.

But to counter suggestions of a confrontation between Mr Major and Herr Kohl, tomorrow's meeting is now being billed as merely a routine consultation. Officials say that, on the crucial issue of majority voting on foreign policy, Bonn backs the need for consensus in all policy-making, and wants majority voting only in deciding details of its execution — a position Britain finds illogical but could be persuaded to accept.

Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday that EC governments could reach a "sensible, balanced agreement" over links between the community and Nato which have provoked disagreements between Britain and France. But Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner at the EC, accused France yesterday of looking for a fight over defence policy.

Mr Hurd and Herr Genscher discussed plans for far-reaching co-operation in setting up joint diplomatic missions in the Soviet republics, including the shared use of buildings, infrastructure and co-operation in political analysis. Germany already has a mission in the Ukraine, is to upgrade representation in Belorussia, and may open a mission in Kazakhstan. Britain and Germany will invite other EC members to come in on the project, and believe that countries such as Italy and The Netherlands would be eager to take part.

Asked whether the timing of such co-operation was not paradoxical when Britain and Germany were far apart on proposals for a common EC foreign policy, Mr Hurd insisted that differences were narrowing, an agreement could be reached and community co-operation, especially over Yugoslavia, was already proving itself.

It was also agreed yesterday that a British diplomat will be seconded to the state government of Saxony to help the former East German region attract British investment.

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Pacemaker: the princess riding through Ottawa

All-heart princess is tricked

From JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

CANADIAN newspapers expressed horror yesterday at a trick played on the Princess of Wales when fake patients were put to beds for her visit to the Ottawa Heart Institute. The *Toronto Star*, Canada's largest newspaper, described the deception as a "royal con job" and a "cheap trick".

The "pyjama game" occurred on Tuesday, the final day of a week's visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ontario, when she went to the institute to open a \$Can500,000 (£256,000) facility for day patients. Because the facility had as yet no patients, eight former institute patients were called in to fill beds for the visit.

The princess, apparently unaware of what one paper called the "royal ruse", moved from bed to bed chatting with the occupants and stroking the heads of some of them. One former patient, Aileen Beaulieu, aged 41, had had her hair done specially for the occasion. "She asked: 'Are you all right now?'" Ms Beaulieu told reporters. As soon as the princess left, most of the "patients" changed and left, too.



Big shot: under a statue's stony gaze, a Soviet army instructor reviews troops in a Kiev snowstorm yesterday. The Ukraine plans to form its own army

Walesa critics fear 'benign dictatorship'

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

POLAND would slip into a form of benign dictatorship if President Walesa concentrated his power by taking over the post of prime minister. That was the verdict yesterday of nervous politicians and constitutional lawyers.

Mr Walesa, worried that there was no solid parliamentary support for radical market reforms after the elections on Sunday, has proposed that he double up as premier and lead either a Solidarity-rooted government, or a broad cabinet that would include the communists, or a team of experts and technocrats. First though, he will see if the Solidarity-rooted parties — led by the largest grouping, the Democratic Union of Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Jacek Kuron — can form a government.

Mr Walesa's move resembles similar proposals put forward this week by Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, who is also seeking to become prime minister. Mr Walesa's aides say that there has been no explicit co-ordination with Mr Yeltsin but both draw similar conclusions from similar problems: a radical market reform programme requires strong centralised control. Politicians were quick to point out that Mr Walesa seemed set to destroy any democratic checks and to push parliament to the margins. Janusz Korwin-Mikke, a conservative deputy, said: "I don't think it's a very good idea — how can it work if the president is supposed to control the prime minister?" The constitution does not

explicitly forbid a double function. Under communist rule, General Wojciech Jaruzelski combined the posts of communist party chief, prime minister and defence minister.

The final results yesterday gave the Democratic Union 51 seats, the former communists 50, the Catholic Action Group 42, the PSL Peasants' party 41, the ultra-nationalist KPN 38, the Centre Alliance 37, and the Liberal Democrats 31.

Dubrovnik awaits flotilla

From AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ZAGREB

A MOTLEY fleet of relief boats was preparing to resume course yesterday for the besieged Croatian city of Dubrovnik after a check of the vessels by the Yugoslav navy, Croatian radio reported. On board the fleet flagship — the ferry Slavija — was President Mesic of Yugoslavia, a Croat who has taken no part in collective presidency decisions because he refuses to travel to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia as well as of the Yugoslav federation.

Dubrovnik, a medieval walled city declared a world

cultural treasure by the United Nations, has been under siege by federal forces for more than three weeks, cut off by land and sea and without supplies of water, electricity or fuel. A European diplomat said this week that food supplies were running low. Thousands of residents have fled, but about 50,000 remain trapped inside.

Accompanying the Slavija are about 100 fishing boats, tugs, and yachts carrying displaced Dubrovnik residents and supplies for the historic port city. Mr Mesic rejected a demand that the Slavija sail to

the Montenegrin coast for a search, negotiating with Stane Brovet, the deputy defence minister. The navy finally agreed that it would inspect the vessels at the island of Mljet.

As the fleet prepared to set sail from Mljet yesterday, Croatian radio said that federal field guns had resumed shelling Dubrovnik in defiance of a ceasefire. It also reported continued fighting around the eastern Croatian city of Vukovar, which was bombed by federal warplanes late on Tuesday.

Algae tide threatens the seas

London — The global threat from an epidemic of toxic red-brown algae blooms warranted international scientific co-operation at the highest level, Professor Theodore Smayda, of Rhode Island University, America, told the fifth international conference on toxic pollution and phytoplankton (Nick Nuttall writes).

Dr Gustaaf Hallegraeff, an Australian government scientist, said delegates had shown that in some areas pollution had triggered a shift in the sea's chemistry that had made harmless algae toxic.

Tokyo choices

Tokyo — Kieichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister-designate, announced his choice for the three top posts in the ruling Liberal Democratic party. They are Koko Sam, head of the executive council, Tamiyuki Watanuki, the general secretary, and Yoshio Mori, chairman of the policy affairs research council.

Prisoners freed

Bangkok — The Cambodian government has freed 1,034 prisoners, including 442 political detainees and 483 POWs, the SPK news agency said. The interior ministry said more would be released, especially political prisoners. A Cambodian peace agreement was signed last week, ending 13 years of civil war. (Reuters)

Aids cash help

Paris — The French finance ministry said it would grant quick compensation to people infected with Aids by blood transfusions between 1980 and 1985, as evidence grew that the health authorities knowingly used contaminated blood. Some 5,000 people, including haemophiliacs, are to be compensated. (Reuters)

African political upheaval

Zambians demand change

From JAN RAATH IN LUSAKA

FREDERICK Chiluba was given an ecstatic reception by much of Lusaka on the eve of elections yesterday, ending a campaign that has caused anxiety among many observers.

About 2.9 million voters are due to go to the polls today for the first democratic election since 1968, with President Kaunda looking like the next political dinosaur to be toppled by the winds of democracy sweeping the continent.

Mr Chiluba, a trade union leader who stands a dapper 5ft 11 in a striped suit, floral tie, matching handkerchief and gold-rimmed glasses, gave the crowd of 50,000 on the southern outskirts of the capital, advice that is uncharacteristic of Zambian politics. "The politics of the future will not be the politics of vindictiveness," he told supporters of his Movement for Multiparty Democracy, shortly after the car of General Kingsley

Chinkuli, had its windows smashed. "What will it benefit you to fight?" he asked. "We must learn we are entering the era where we accept differences of opinion. Unless we know that, we are not democrats."

Despite the enthusiasm of the crowd, and the confidence of the candidate, victory by the Movement for Multiparty Democracy over Dr Kaunda's United National Independence Party, which has ruled since independence in 1964, is far from certain.

The level of public antagonism against Dr Kaunda, aged 68, is expressed largely in urban areas which have borne the brunt of the economic mismanagement that last month saw the World Bank and donor nations freeze all cash aid. Observers say Dr Kaunda is banking on the rural population, seen as unsophisticated and used to following his officials unquestioningly.

The urban voter population is also skewed by the fact that almost no registration of voters has been conducted over the past year. Observers say this has disenfranchised up to a million people, many of them young people who support Mr Chiluba.

However, it is the grassroots enthusiasm for Mr Chiluba that many believe will be the undoing of the vast and well-entrenched machinery of the independence party, hastened by the words on the lips of thousands of Lusaka people yesterday: "We want change now."



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Israelis and Palestinians applaud Bush speech

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAELIS and Palestinians yesterday gave an enthusiastic welcome to President Bush's opening address at the Middle East peace conference, although both sides appeared to continue to harbour doubts about the prospects of success in Madrid.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, and Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, praised Mr Bush, but typically only embraced the portions of the American president's speech which appeared to support their positions, and continued to accuse each other of intransigence. The Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese will all have their chance to respond today when each delegation sets out what are likely to be tough opening negotiating positions.

The second stage of the peace talks, the key bilateral sessions due to take place at the beginning of next week in Madrid, appeared last night to be running into trouble because of Israeli insistence that future dialogue be held in the Middle East, a move which Syria in particular appears to be resisting. Publicly, however, all sides went out of their way to express their satisfaction with the direction in which the conference had been led by President Bush.

Mr Netanyahu said that the Jewish state was particularly encouraged by Mr Bush's emphasis on the need for a regional peace based on formal treaties, the recognition of Israel's particular security needs and the importance of the bilateral stages of the talks. But the Israelis were clearly unhappy about Mr Bush's reference to the need for territorial concessions, a euphemism for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories in the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr Netanyahu tried to deflect the issue by arguing that Israel had already complied with the withdrawal

REACTION

needs when it pulled out of the Sinai Desert a decade ago during the Camp David treaty with Egypt.

"Israel seeks a reasonable outcome whereby it can have the margins of existence, the margins of security, and a country that is ten miles wide cannot be secure, cannot defend itself," he said, referring to Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Earlier, Mrs Ashrawi highlighted very different sections of President Bush's speech, particularly the right of the Palestinians to have "meaningful control" of their lives and a legitimate and fair peace settlement. "There were no surprises," said Mrs Ashrawi, but she added that the Palestinians believed Washington was serious about working for a solution to the conflict.

However, she said that President Bush appeared to have avoided some of the most difficult problems on the agenda which would have to be tackled at some stage. "I think he tried to steer away from extremely contentious issues. Settlements, Jerusalem were left without any direct references."

President Mubarak of Egypt, who heads the only Arab country with diplomatic ties with Israel, said in an interview with *The New York Times* that he could not foresee a regional peace unless Israel agreed to reverse its annexation of east Jerusalem. He said that although Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was a hardliner, he was an optimist and believed Israel could eventually concede some territory to Palestinians and its other Arab neighbours. Israel, he added, must not underestimate the religious importance of east Jerusalem for the Arabs.

Bush peace vision, page 1
Leading article, page 19

Middle East peace 'need not be a dream'

The following is a partial text of the address by President Bush to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid yesterday

WE come to Madrid on a mission of hope — to begin work on a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement to the conflict in the Middle East.

Our objective must be clear and straightforward. It is not simply to end the state of war in the Middle East and replace it with a state of non-belligerency. This is not enough: this would not last.

What we seek is a Middle East where vast resources are no longer devoted to armaments. A Middle East where young people no longer have to dedicate and, all too often, give their lives to combat. A Middle East no longer victimised by fear and terror. A Middle East where normal men and women lead normal lives.

Every life lost — every outrage, every act of violence — is etched deep in

TEXT

the hearts and history of the people of this region. Theirs is a history that weighs heavily against hope. And yet, history need not be man's master.

No, peace in the Middle East need not be a dream. Peace is possible. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is striking proof that former adversaries can make and sustain peace. And moreover, parties in the Middle East have respected agreements, not only in the Sinai, but on the Golan Heights as well.

Peace will only come as the result of direct negotiations, compromise, give-and-take. Peace cannot be imposed from the outside by the United States or anyone else. While we will continue to do everything possible to help the parties overcome obstacles, peace must come from within.

We come here to Madrid as realists. We do not expect peace to be negotiated in a day, or a week, or a month, or even a year. It will take time; indeed, it should take time — time for parties so



Tidings of peace: President Bush, dwarfed by figures of a vast tapestry, addressing the opening session of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid

long at war to learn to talk to one another, to listen to one another.

What we envision is a process of direct negotiations proceeding along two tracks, one between Israel and the Arab states; the other between Israel and the Palestinians. Negotiations are to be conducted on the

basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The real work will not happen here in the plenary session, but in direct bilateral negotiations. This conference cannot impose a settlement on the participants or veto agreements; and just as important, the conference can only be re-

convened with the consent of every participant. Progress is in the hands of the parties who must live with the consequences.

Soon after the bilateral talks commence, parties will convene as well to organise multilateral negotiations. These will focus on issues that cross national bound-

aries and are common to the region: arms control, water, refugees concerns, economic development. For Israel and the Palestinians, a framework already exists for diplomacy. Negotiations will be conducted in phases, beginning with talks on interim self-government arrangements. We aim to reach agreement within one year. And once agreed, interim self-government arrangements will last for five years; beginning the third year, negotiations will commence on permanent status.

Peace cannot depend upon promises alone. Real peace — lasting peace — must be based upon security for all states and peoples, including Israel. For too long the Israeli people have lived in fear, surrounded by an unaccepting Arab world. Now is the ideal moment for the Arab world to demonstrate that attitudes have changed, that the Arab world is willing to live in peace with Israel and make allowances for Israel's reasonable security needs.

Throughout the Middle East, we seek a stable and enduring settlement. We've not defined what this means; indeed, I make these points with no map showing where the final borders are to be drawn. Nevertheless, we believe territorial compromise is essential for peace. Boundaries should reflect the quality of both security and political arrangements.

We played an active role in making this conference possible; both the Secretary of State, Jim Baker, and I will play an active role in helping the process succeed. Toward this end, we've provided written assurances to Israel, to Syria, to Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians. In the spirit of openness and honesty, we will brief all parties on the assurances that we have provided to the other.

We're prepared to extend guarantees, provide technology and support, if that is what peace requires. And we will call upon our friends and allies in Europe and in Asia to join with us in providing resources so that peace and prosperity go hand in hand.

Outsiders can assist, but in the end, it is up to the peoples and governments of the Middle East to shape the future of the Middle East.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Elvers slip on to menu for wives

Madrid — Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet president, has sampled baby eels, one of Spain's most expensive delicacies, during a private supper with Queen Sofia. Press reports said they started their meal at a Madrid restaurant on Tuesday evening with a green bean and pea salad and eggs and truffles before eating *angulas*, baby eels served sizzling in a small ceramic dish. The cost of a small portion of *angulas* begins at around £17. The two women had earlier visited Toledo, a medieval city where Jews, Muslims and Christians once mingled in peace. It was Mrs Gorbachev's first public outing since the attempted coup against her husband in August. (AP)

Arms swap deal

Bonn — A secret weapons shipment for Israel intercepted by Hamburg harbour police was part of a long-standing deal between Bonn and the Jewish state to exchange information on Soviet arms, a senior defence official said. The shipment did not include tanks, contrary to earlier reports. (Reuters)

Libyans sought

Paris — A French judge issued international arrest warrants for four Libyan officials, including Abdallah Senoussi, brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, for the 1989 airliner bombing over Niger that killed 170 people. Mr Senoussi is thought to be deputy head of Libyan intelligence. (AP)

Saudi meeting

Madrid — Saudi Arabia, which refused to attend the Middle East peace conference, sent Prince Bandar bin Sultan, its Washington ambassador, to meet President Bush shortly before the talks began. His unexpected arrival was seen as a gesture of Saudi support for the peace effort. (Reuters)

Kurds cut off

Ankara — Iraq has withdrawn troops and state services from the area designated as Kurdistan in a 1974 agreement, effectively declaring "economic war". Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said. (Reuters)

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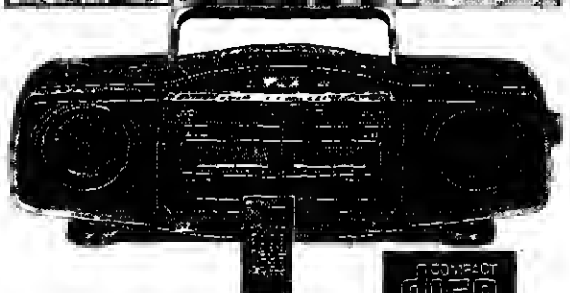
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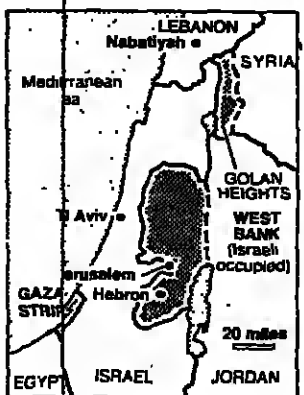
Palestinians mark talks with day of stoning and bullets

By PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PALESTINIANS clashed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday over deep divisions about the Madrid peace talks. Marchers in favour of the conference stoned mosques in the Gaza Strip when Islamic militants prevented them from entering.

Muslim fundamentalists and other anti-conference radicals meanwhile forced shops to close for a general strike. Hundreds of youths from the Gaza Strip, many carrying the forbidden Palestinian flag and chanting nationalist slogans, marched in support of the conference under the watchful gaze of the army.

In cities that were repeated in the West Bank, noisy marches supporting the talks placed olive branches on military jeeps and into the hands



of bearded soldiers. Anti-conference Islamic militants burned tyres and erected roadblocks.

In the city of Hebron, on the West Bank, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian aged 19, the second Arab killed there in two days. Israeli security sources said that about 20 Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire in the Gaza Strip and 1 in the West Bank city of Nalut. The Israeli army went on maximum alert saying it had "fresh, reliable information about more attacks against Israeli targets".

At the Jewish West Bank settlement of Shiloh, nationalists staged a new neighbourhood in response to a Palestinian guerrilla ambush

ISRAEL

on Monday that killed a woman resident and a man from Jerusalem. "This neighbourhood was approved by the government to be built in five months' time," said Aaron Domb, a spokesman for the local council. "But Shiloh's secretariat decided to advance it and the tractors are working away."

In an attempt to avoid disturbances, the army imposed selective curfews, but observers noted that the soldiers appeared to be under orders not to interfere in pro-conference demonstrations. "We're not looking for confrontations," said a military source.

Elsewhere, Israeli soldiers shot and killed an Iranian who crossed into Israel over the Jordanian border. Three more Iranian infiltrators were captured, the army said.

On the streets of west and east Jerusalem, where radios and television relayed the opening speeches from Madrid, hope mingled with scepticism. "We hope it will succeed," said a young Palestinian, adding that he hoped Palestinian delegates in Madrid would remain "faithful" to their people. Another criticised the low level of Arab participation. "There should be a lot of kings," he said.

The Israeli press greeted the start of the talks with banner headlines and festive touches, including the flags of participants and caricatures of the main protagonists, dressed as matadors. "The war for peace" declared the left-leaning *Hadashot*, at the top of a poster-sized front page. The headline in the mass circulation *Yediot Aharanot*, printed in the blue and white of Israel's flag, said: "With hope and trepidation."

In Lebanon, the talks prompted about 10,000 pro-Iranian Muslim militants to demonstrate in the bombed ruins of the former American embassy in Beirut, where they vowed to confront the peace

conference with war. Shooting "We will fight" and "Death to America, Death to Israel", protesters marched to the shattered embassy. "We turn to Madrid, the centre of treachery, to say enough carelessness with this [Arab] nation's honour and dignity," said Sheikh Abbas Musawi, head of the fundamentalist Hezbollah.

An Israeli attack this week, which destroyed an office of Hezbollah in Nabatiyyeh, southern Lebanon, reinforced beliefs that Israelis and Arabs are destined to be enemies. According to a Lebanese army officer, the missiles were fired on Tuesday from a Cobra gunship hovering above a hilltop at least two miles away.

One gun-toting young man named Mahmud, looking upwards at the wrecked office, now festooned with black flags, said: "They can't have real peace because the people negotiating in Madrid are not real Muslims or Arabs."

Tehran decries treason

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN

IRAN'S supreme leader denounced the Middle East peace talks yesterday as treason, and an influential Iranian hardliner urged terror groups to kill all those taking part, in particular President Bush, the "most hated individual".

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, successor to the late Ayatollah Khomeini, said the peace talks had been forced on the Muslim world and "those taking part in this treason will suffer the wrath of nations". Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who established the pro-Iranian Hezbollah organisation in Lebanon, issued what amounted to a fatwa, or religious decree, calling for the death of the American president and all those involved in the peace process. He said those taking part were "moharebs", or men who wage war against



Mohtashemi named Bush as hit squads' key target

God, and "in accordance with Islam, the blood of a mohareb must be shed".

His target list included "hiring Arab leaders and some treacherous Palestinian leaders" but was headed by Mr Bush. "President Bush, as the initiator of this big crime, is considered the top, the first-degree criminal, and is classed as the most-hated individual," Mr Mohtashemi, a former interior minister, told the 270-member majlis or par-

Americans offer limited food aid

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SOVIET UNION

DESPITE President Gorbachev's appeal in Madrid for help to stabilise his country after a dismal harvest, President Bush told the Soviet leader during their talks that he can offer only limited aid.

Mr Bush is preparing a fresh aid package for the Soviet Union, including the setting up of American model farms to illustrate modern farming techniques. Edward Madigan, the American agriculture secretary, returned recently to Washington with a 300-page Soviet emergency aid request. But Mr Bush told Mr Gorbachev privately in Madrid of the growing pressure on him to spend scarce resources at home, not overseas.

There is debate within the administration on whether the objective should be simply to prevent famine in the Soviet Union this winter, which would need little direct aid, or whether it should be to prevent the slaughter of livestock, which would require more aid, or whether still greater amounts of aid should be used to reward the most reformist republics. Soviet officials confirmed yesterday that this year's grain harvest is 30 per

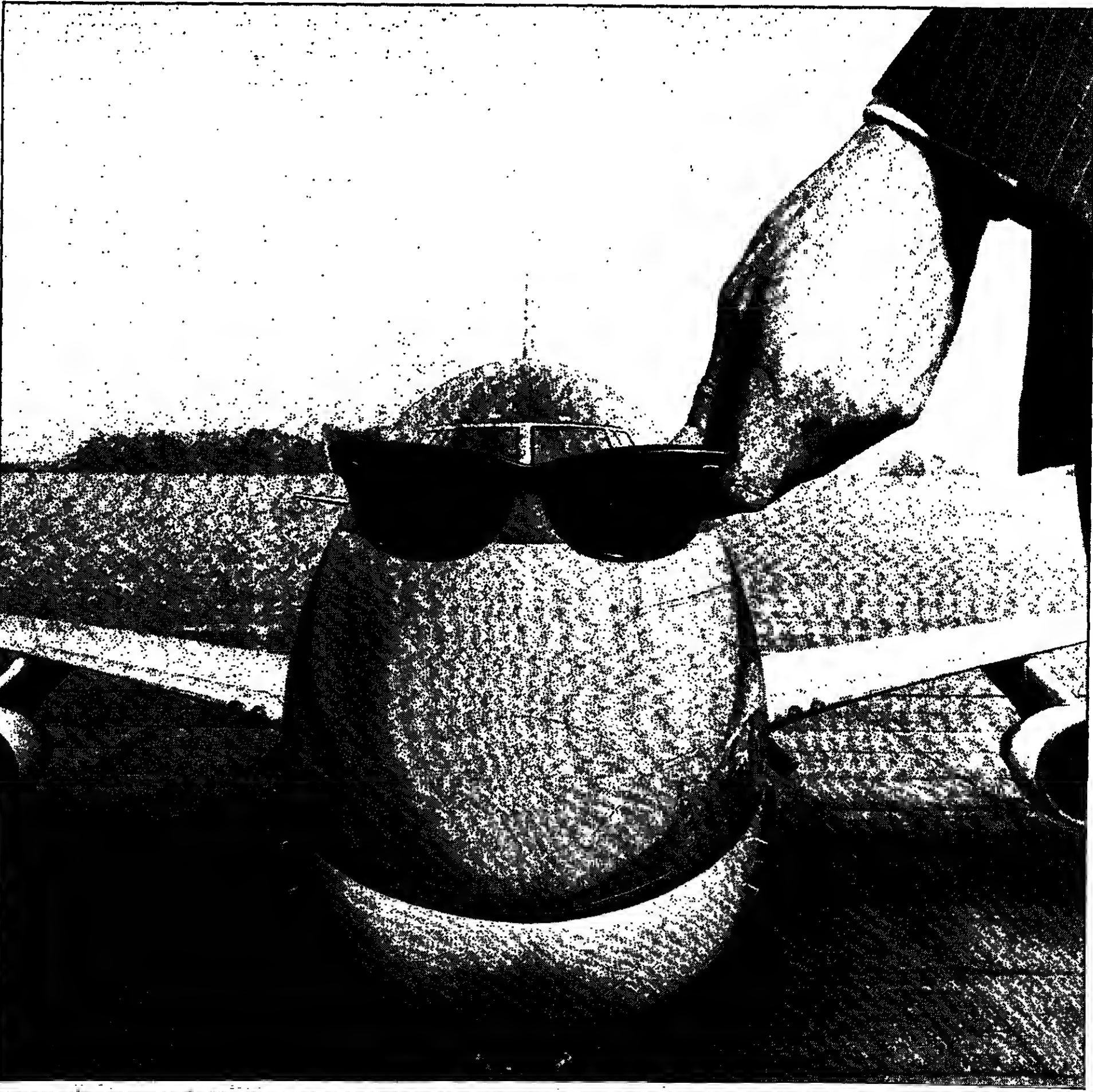
cent down on last year's record harvest of 237 million tonnes, but offered the consolation thought that proportionally more was wasted in good years than in bad because of inadequate storage.

The official figure for 1991, released by the Soviet state statistics committee, is 165 million tonnes. The poor harvest would complicate the food situation, but imports and foreign food aid have been solicited to help to offset the shortages and no hunger is predicted. The chief difficulty remains the procurement of grain by the state as many regions and farms are holding it back.

The grain harvest was only one of several adverse economic indicators disclosed yesterday. Vladimir Gribov, the deputy Soviet economics minister, said that this year's internal budget deficit was now expected to reach 240 billion roubles (£24 billion at the official tourist rate of exchange), four times the original estimate.

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Bush returns to hazards of Duke

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES

PRESIDENT Bush returned to the United States from Madrid yesterday to find his domestic political troubles in a worse state than when he left. After the defeat of his choice of Republican candidate for next month's gubernatorial contest in Louisiana, he now faces the prospect that his former attorney-general may lose the Senate race which has been dubbed "the 1992 test rehearsal".

With the White House encouraged Richard Thornburgh to take on Harris Wofford, the one-time aide of President Kennedy, for the Pennsylvania Senate seat, the contest seemed the best test for the themes that Mr Bush would use next year. Mr Thornburgh, a conservative and previously popular state governor, took a 40-point lead over the liberal Mr Wofford, who had been appointed by a Democrat governor to the Senate only a few months before the death of the Republican, John Heinz.

Bush with a week to voting



Duke supremacist thorn in the president's side

day, poll for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette showed a Thornburgh lead of just one point, with Mr Wofford leading by four points when taking into account of respondents' likelihood of voting. The election has been transformed from a "40-point yawner to the hottest race of 1991", according to local press reports.

Senator Wofford, a civil rights activist turned college president, has successfully represented himself as the outsider running against the domestic programme of the Bush administration. He has

scored by advocating national health insurance in television advertisements. He has introduced a bill which would stop free health care for congressmen until they enact health insurance for everyone.

Mr Thornburgh has hit back that tax increases would be needed to pay for the Wofford plan. He has paraded his record as a tough prosecutor of violent crime and fraud. His advertisements have emphasised the prosperity the state enjoyed during the 1980s when he was governor.

But two weeks of aggressive media reporting, based on gloomy economic statistics, have strengthened the sense that President Bush and his men have neglected their domestic duties. Mr Thornburgh seems also to have come off worse in the mud-slinging by both sides. The Republicans have attacked Mr Wofford for his university fundraising from arms dealer, Adnan Khashoggi. Democrats concentrated on allegations that the justice department, under Mr Thornburgh, was reluctant to deal with the Bank of Commerce and Credit International scandal.

If the Democrats are to deliver Mr Bush an embarrassing defeat, they must still match their organisational skills to that of their message. The size of the turnout will be critical. It is unlikely, however, that the president will risk a last-minute personal attempt to help his friend. His next move is to raise money in Texas for his own campaign.

Mr Bush must also decide whether to endorse the Democrat, Edwin Edwards, in his attempt to defeat David Duke, the self-styled Republican and former Ku Klux Klan wizard, for the Louisiana governorship on November 16. The White House would rather stay out of the race after the defeat of its incumbent candidate, Buddy Roemer. But a narrow victory for Mr Duke would open Mr Bush to the charge that he stood idly by while a white racist took advantage of America's economic discontent.

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Refugee leaders plead for Bush intervention

Boat people riot after repatriation accord

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

A RIOT squad of the Hong Kong prison service fired off 42 rounds of tear gas to restore order in the colony's largest detention centre for boat people after 200 Vietnamese wielding knives and sharpened sticks clashed in a bloody brawl over watching television programmes.

The riot, the first serious unrest reported in the camps for some time, came only hours after Britain and Vietnam signed an agreement that

tens of thousands of boat people would be deported from the colony. It is understood the fight broke out late at night in the 25,000-inmate Whitehead detention centre when a small group of Vietnamese began arguing over which channel to watch for news on repatriation.

Soon after they were attacked by an armed group from another dormitory. By the time the fighting was under control, eight people

had been stabbed. About 40 people were later arrested. Raymond Lai, the deputy head of the prison service, said he could not rule out the possibility that the brawl was linked to fears of repatriation, although he said that most boat people had responded "reasonably well" to the announcement.

In an interview with a news agency on a secret telephone, three Vietnamese leaders at the detention centre said they were depending on the Bush administration to stop the plans to deport more than 50,000 boat people. "If we had a chance to talk to President Bush we would appeal to his humanity to save our lives in this terrible situation," one leader said through an interpreter. "We believe that the Americans will not let us down. They will help us in one way or another."

Sources said the 500 weapons found in a search of the detention centre after the riot showed the effect of tension that has built up since speculation about a deal with Vietnam began last month. But aid workers were sceptical, saying that other fights had gone unreported, and suggesting that the authorities had been glad of the opportunity to go in hard. "The message they were trying to get across is that violence will be controlled and that resistance to repatriation will not be tolerated," said one worker.

Alistair Asprey, the Hong Kong secretary for security, declared on Tuesday that law and order would be maintained. He said any violent resistance would probably be instigated by a small minority and that those who would suffer most would be the other Vietnamese in the camp.

● Bangkok: Vietnam is prepared to accept any boat people who are sent back by countries that have been sheltering them, Vo Van Kiet, the Vietnamese prime minister, said during a visit to Thailand. (Reuters)

Colony's lawyers fight for freedom

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's agreement with the Chinese government on the constitution of the Court of Final Appeal, which should take over from the Privy Council after 1997 in Hong Kong, might be thrown out by legislators as a threat to the independence of the judiciary in the colony.

There is mounting opposition to the proposed composition of the court within the Hong Kong Legislative Council, which has voted overwhelmingly against it, and within the legal profession. The 500-member Hong Kong Bar and the 2,500-member Law Society of Hong Kong have jointly voiced concern about the terms agreed by the government with Peking, which they say flout the spirit and letter of the Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law.

Anthony Rogers, QC, chairman of the Hong Kong Bar, said: "Our main concern is that this agreement of John Major's has limited the independence of the judiciary in running its own affairs." When the declaration was signed, he said, great emphasis was placed on the continuation of Hong Kong's legal

system and, in particular, the independence of the judiciary. The declaration proposed that the court should be able to invite judges from overseas jurisdictions. Under the new agreement, however, the court will be limited to the chief justice, and three permanent Hong Kong judges. Only one judge can be invited from panels of local judges and from overseas jurisdictions.

In a speech to the Legislative Council yesterday, Martin Lee, the chairman of the liberal United Democrats, accused the government of helping Peking to increase its control over the colony before it returns to Chinese rule. He described the Joint Liaison Group, which was established to negotiate Hong Kong's transition to Chinese rule, as a "Sino-British condominium government". He accused the group of "deciding Hong Kong's affairs without even consulting the people of Hong Kong".

In a recent statement, the Hong Kong government office issued a defence of the court's composition, saying it was not true that it was contrary to the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law.



Space oddity: Maat Mons, believed to be the only active volcano on Venus, and its lava flow extending for hundreds of miles, recorded by the Magellan spacecraft. A Nasa computer-simulated film of Magellan images showed 5½-mile-high ridges on the planet, wide craters and fractured plains

Kennedy reputation joins nephew in dock

Charles Bremner reports that the William Kennedy Smith rape trial will also judge his uncle's record

AS AMERICA'S leading liberal and conscience of the Senate, Edward Kennedy might once have been proud to put his imprint on a legal landmark in the history of American women's rights.

But while the trial of William Kennedy Smith, which opens today with the selection of a jury, is being heralded in such lofty terms, it may also go down as the tragicomic finale to the senator's 30-year political career and even to the Kennedy legend.

One key question being put to 450 potential jurors will be: "What is your attitude to the Kennedy family?" The judge is the

case has received a pile of anonymous letters demanding that he does not "let the Kennedys off". Since a seat on the six-member panel will guarantee celebrity and book and film rights, potential jurors may lie about their prejudices.

For old enemies of the Boston family it is a time for Schadenfreude. "The Kennedy dynasty is drawing to a close, its mystique shattered, its political capital expended," said the popu-

list, conservative, *New York Post*. "The curtain is dropping on Camelot."

Mr Kennedy, who will soon be 60, is only a witness in the trial of his nephew. Mr Smith is alleged to have raped the woman he brought home from a bar during a late-night jaunt with his uncle and cousin. However, as far as the jury of his 270 million fellow citizens is concerned, Teddy is being called to account for his recklessness in the matter of

women and whisky — he has fallen foul of the new censorious American spirit, which has been boosted by the recent hearings over Judge Clarence Thomas.

It was one of those great ironies that Mr Kennedy should have sat in judgment, as a member of the Senate judiciary committee, over Anita Hill's charges of sexual harassment against Mr Thomas. "It was a terrible subject at a terrible time" for the senator, said Doris Kearns, a chronicler of the Boston dynasty.

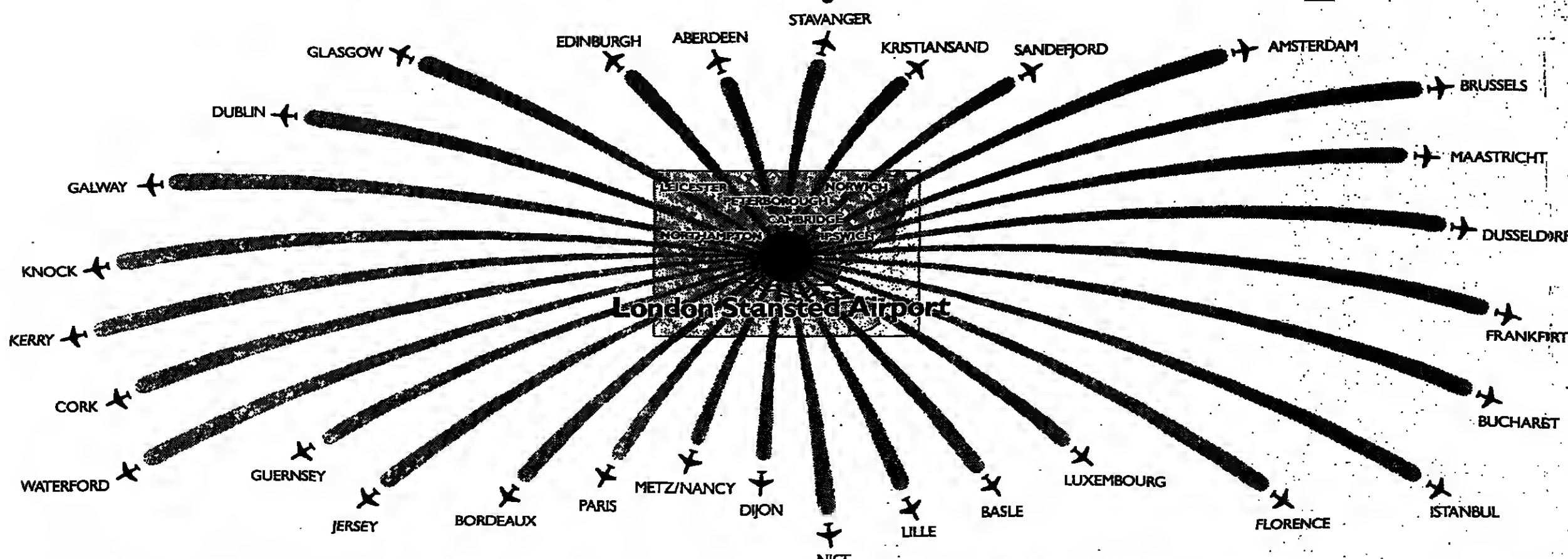
Thanks to the Senate hearing, Mr Kennedy is not only bearing his family baggage to the Palm Beach court

house but also the burden of the whole post-Thomas war of the sexes. Now the Smith trial provides an almost parallel case hinging on the question of personal credibility. The outcome will, it is said, shape the way American courts treat the explosive issue of "date rape" and the sensibilities of women.

The senator voted against the elevation of Judge Thomas to the Supreme Court, but for feminists and other critics, that merely highlighted his perceived hypocrisy in championing liberal causes while at the same time violating liberal precepts in his private life.

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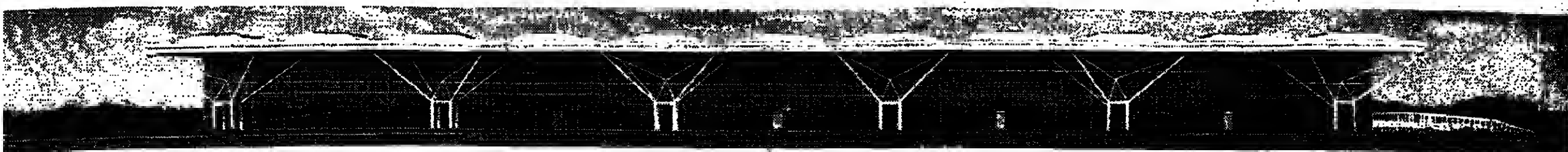
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Understanding why it hurts

Can mind beat matter? Is it better to take a pill before a headache develops than after? Liz Gill looks at the latest research into pain control

The more that is understood about pain, the more complicated it appears. Simply viewing it as a warning system is not enough. Sometimes the warning bells ring when there is no cause; on other occasions they do not ring when there is some illness, including certain cancers, produce no pain.

Matters are further complicated by our ability to switch off the protective mechanisms like the soldier who forgets his shattered leg in the heat of battle.

Some experts believe that it may be time to view pain not simply as a symptom but, in some cases, as a disease in itself. Certainly it is widespread. Surveys estimate that between 7 and 11 per cent of the adult population in Britain suffer chronic pain, that is pain lasting longer than three months and there are now around 250 pain relief clinics in the country.

As with other diseases, attention is now turning to prevention rather than cure. But is it possible to put pain relief before pain? Clifford Woolf, a professor of neurobiology at University College London and a researcher into the mechanism of pain, says that it is, at least for those undergoing surgery — 75 per cent of whom, according to a Royal College of Surgeons report, normally suffer severely after their operation.

"You can use a local anaesthetic as well as the general one to block signals from the nerve fibres or you can give morphine before the operation to depress the nervous system," Professor Woolf says. "In clinical trials in the United States the approach has been found to reduce post-operative pain substantially."

Everyday aches and pains should not be tolerated either, in Professor Woolf's view. "The old view used to be 'wait and see' and sometimes, of course, the pain did disappear, but generally the evidence is that the earlier a treatment is given the more likely it is to be effective," he says. "You should not take a paracetamol at the first twinge but you should take one before you have a full-blown headache."

Professor Woolf and his team at UCL this week won a £250,000 grant from the pharmaceutical giant Bristol-Myers Squibb which may lead to practical applications of their research into the mechanisms of pain.

Only by understanding how

pain works, Professor Woolf says, can we ever hope to beat it. "A lot of clinicians, for instance, used to think that there was a single pain system. It opened briefly for everyday pain, like stubbing your toe or burning your fingers, and opened for longer for pain from disease. The difference was only that of intensity or duration."

"But in fact there is a real difference in terms of mechanisms between normal physiological pain, the sort that protects against damaging stimuli — good pain if you like — and pathological pain."

Dr David Bowsher, a consultant neurologist at the Centre for Pain Relief at the Walton Hospital in Liverpool, the first and largest pain clinic in Europe, believes that pain is still a victim of medical tradition.

"Up to the 19th century medicine was entirely concerned with symptoms. Then it got all scientific, became about identifying diseases and dealing with root causes. Doctors are still trained like this. So they persist in saying 'We will find the cause and deal with it.' But people are much less prepared to put up with pain nowadays and are quite rightly demanding changes."

The clinic sees 3,500 patients a year, slightly more women than men. "Women are allowed to express themselves more freely, they do not bother so much with this stiff upper lip nonsense," Dr Bowsher says. "At the same time they seem to put up with pain better."

About half the patients at the centre will find total relief and another 25 per cent partial relief. For the rest it is a question of pain management, teaching them how to cope through a variety of techniques including faith healing, yoga, then Buddhism, transcendental meditation, hypnosis, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, relaxation techniques. "It is the case of whatever works for you," Dr Bowsher says. He believes the psychological approach has improved enormously in recent years.

One such development has been in work with children where their powers of imagination are harnessed both to help them get through painful tests and procedures and to cope with chronic pain. Dr Anjo Goldman, a consultant in palliative care at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, central London, says: "Distraction

techniques are used to focus the mind away from the pain. Children have brilliant imaginations and it is a case of helping them to direct these thoughts. Sometimes it is through a story, making the test part of an adventure for example, or getting them to visualise something. Children who have terrible itching with eczema for instance, may be helped by visualising a snow scene or going swimming. Sometimes we use toys or hand-held computers."

Such techniques, she emphasises, are used alongside analgesia. The feeling now is that over-cautious about drugs in the past led to children being under-treated.

Laboratory tests on volunteers tend to suggest that how we express pain, and how we cope with it, vary enormously and are linked to psychological, social, even cultural factors. It is the emotional component of pain that complicates a strictly scientific approach, according to Dr Charles Pither, a consultant anaesthetist at St Thomas's Hospital and the co-founder of Campaign, a fund raising and educational charity.

"I am not sure we will ever be able to explain all of what



When to seek relief from pain? "The earlier a treatment is given the more likely it is to be effective," Professor Woolf says

patients complain about in scientific terms," Dr Pither says. "You can have two people whose X-rays show the same degeneration of the spine and who are behaving completely differently."

Sometimes, he says, doctors who cannot find a cause doubt that patients really have pain. "In whiplash cases, for example, between 10-15 per cent of patients will still be in pain after six months though by that stage there will be no detectable lesions. What can you do? You cannot say it is imaginary; at the same time there is no point in a neck brace or operation. But these people are not mentally ill, I see pain as a disability in itself."

Pain can bring rewards for sufferers: sympathy, attention, a reason for not doing unpleasant tasks. It can of course be a burden to carers.

"Sometimes, though, it is satisfactory to both parties. The carer gets rewards too," says Dr Beverly-Jane Collett, a consultant anaesthetist at Leicester Royal Infirmary and also a founder of Campaign. "In these cases they may ask you to desist from trying further treatments. The pain is no less but these gains are the best way they have found of coping with it."

has been taken there is no antidote, according to Dr Anthony Dickenson, lecturer in pharmacology at University College, London. Exactly how paracetamol works is not known.

Codeine and other drugs in the narcotic group act by blocking the pain messages travelling up to the brain via the spinal cord. The main disadvantage with this type is constipation. Addiction is only a remote possibility because, says Dr Dickenson, such huge amounts would have to be consumed that nausea and vomiting would set in first.

Vast advertising budgets are spent trying to persuade us of the superiority of one brand over another but, according to Dr Glyn Volans, consultant clinical pharmacologist at Guy's Hospital, while some may be safer for the stomach, as far as pain relief is concerned there is not much difference because they all have to conform to the standards set by the British Pharmacopoeia.

WHICH PAIN-KILLERS DO WHAT

● Non-prescription pain-killers are our most commonly used drugs. Last year the British spent £145 million on over-the-counter analgesics.

● In comparison, we spent £81 million on vitamins last year and £71 million on sore throat remedies.

● One study of aspirin suggested that six billion tablets a year are consumed in this country.

● There are two types of over-the-counter analgesics: the non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory group of which aspirin, paracetamol and ibuprofen are the main kinds, and the narcotic group, of which codeine is the main example.

● Aspirin works by stopping the production of prostaglandins, chemicals produced when there is injury to a part of the body and which cause swelling and send pain messages to the brain.

● Paracetamol, while not irritating the gut as aspirin does, has its drawbacks. An overdose will cause liver damage, and once the drug

has been taken there is no antidote, according to Dr Anthony Dickenson, lecturer in pharmacology at University College, London. Exactly how paracetamol works is not known.

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Accuracy lies with you

Lying to a child may shield it from the truth, but how much will the fib cost?

BADR Turner was allegedly economical with the truth when explaining to her daughter Joanne that Daddy was always on a business trip. On the other hand, she could hardly tell a four-year-old: "Your daddy is a hostage." Or could she?

Lying to children is potentially more damaging than sharing the truth with them, says Anthony Cox, a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital (UMDS), London.

"As a general principle one tells children as accurately as possible things where it concerns them directly," he says. "It is very possible to underestimate how much a child does understand. There is a great danger they pick up a lot more than adults realise and misinterpret it."

Offering children explanations is particularly important between the ages of three and nine, Professor Cox says, as this is the age when children very often think what is happening is their fault and may take more on themselves than they should.

"How you tell a child is important, you discover what they already understand and what they are thinking about a situation. You may find that what an adult thinks is enormously desperate and frightening, to a child presents concerns which are quite different. An adult who feels anguish about a

matter should not necessarily land that feeling on the child. "If a child feels a parent has not been straight, that can sour their relationship," said Dr Charlie Lewis, a lecturer in developmental psychology at Lancaster University and the author of *Becoming A Father*. "The trouble with the story about a hostage being away on a business trip is there would be so much talking about him on television, it would become difficult to sustain. Once your cover as a parent is blown it takes a long while to re-establish trust."

Most parents tell mundane lies just to survive, but not telling the truth about subjects which are deadly serious, like divorce, redundancy or imprisonment, can rob children of a crucial role. Dr Robert Sharpe, a consultant psychiatrist and the director of Lifeskills, which teaches anxiety management skills, says: "Children like to be involved in a practical way, they don't like to be sent to bed while mother is downstairs sobbing."

"When fathers are in prison for a long time I try to persuade mothers to confide in their children because then they can write nice long letters to keep dad's spirits up. Although I don't think lying will do any long-term damage children do like the chance to be able to help resolve a problem and they have every right to be angry if they are kept in the dark."

HEATHER KIRBY

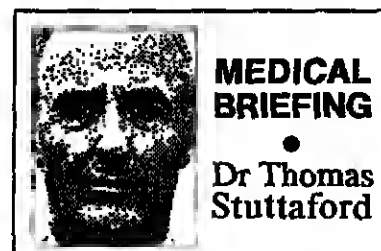
Facelifts can be job-savers

JOHN Nettles admits in his autobiography *Nudity in a Public Place* that he resorts to a few subterfuges to look as youthful off the screen as when playing Jim Bergerac, the Jersey detective. Mr Nettles conceals his baldness with wigs, an indoor one and a tough outdoor one to withstand channel winds.

Hidden beneath the Nettles hair on occasion there has been a moveable face-lifting device like a plastic alic band with sticky tape which, when attached to the skin in front of the ears, pulls the facial skin upwards and backwards, tightening sagging features.

With the increasing threat of redundancy more middle-aged men, out only actors but also city workers, are resorting to cosmetic surgery in an attempt to stave off the axe.

The days when a facelift left the patient with a mask-like expression



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

The standard surgical approach is to make an incision in the temple hairline which, hidden in the skin creases, continues down in front of the ear before ending over the mastoid bone behind it. The skin is lifted, pulled upwards and backwards, the slack removed and the remaining skin trimmed so that there is no tension in the scar.

In younger patients the surgeon can also tighten the fascia, the covering over the facial muscles, taking the tension off the skin and leaving a better contour to the lips.

Some surgeons are now reproducing the action of Mr Nettles's alic band by making a sub-periosteal (down to the bone) incision over the top of the scalp, mobilising all the tissues of the face, before giving them a good upwards tug and fixing them in the new position.



Respectable but at risk

DOCTORS and their patients are so dazzled by the association of cancer of the cervix with multiple sexual partners, wayward husbands, unfaithful lovers, smoking and even douching that they tend to ignore the risk in non-smoking virgins, or even the wife of the local Methodist minister.

A recent study published in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* explores the well established belief that cancer of the cervix is rare in nuns and common in prostitutes, a cornerstone of medical teaching since an Italian paper published in 1842 suggested that nuns rarely died from this tumour.

An analysis of the death rate of British nuns in the three years to 1988 showed that cancer of the cervix was only fractionally less common in them

than in other women. It is possible that present-day nuns had a more venturesome life before taking their orders than did those in 1842, but it is also possible that because the disease is unexpected it is, tragically, diagnosed later than in other women.

Additional support for the case for screening all women regardless of age is provided by another study, reported in the medical magazine *Pulse*. This research, carried out by Australian scientists, showed that the outcome of cancer of the cervix in those women, usually younger, in whom there was evidence of past infection with genital warts was better than for older women whose cancer could less often be linked to wart virus infection. The message is clear: older women too need routine smears, whether they are prelates' wives or prostitutes, and any patient who has bleeding between periods, bleeding after intercourse, or a persistent discharge warrants expert examination.

The diet is the bottom line

THE prime minister may preach equality for women but nature is less fair and more sexist. The *European Journal of Clinical Investigation* reports that Dr Hans Wahrenberg of the Huddinge University Hospital, Sweden, has shown that although 30 minutes brisk exercise may reduce a man's thighs and buttocks, the fat cells in a woman's gluteal region (her bottom) are more resistant to the biochemical changes induced by exercise.

If women want a trimmer figure they need to rely on a low-calorie diet. Dieting should be regular, episodic starving results in patients intermittently living off their own stored fat, which when it is carried in the bloodstream is no less damaging to the arteries than the fat derived from bacon and eggs. In the short term Adifax, (difenfluramine hydrochloride) the new slimming pill, may help to establish a better regime.



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WH SMITH
More to discover

Michael Wright reviews the icy samizdat thriller that has turned to slush in the spring

Blood red tales in the sunset

Old Czech books and old Czech books have more in common than meets the eye. Ah, now I admit that chiselled prose chronicling communist repression, and scrawled stubs recording capitalist extravagance may, on the surface, seem poles — even serendipitous — apart. But you will agree (if your old Czech books are anything like mine) that there is something desperately unappealing about leafing through painful reminders of recent human folly, greed and weakness. And you may agree, if you read this deep dark novel by Ivan Klima, that there is something equally unappealing about leafing through 547 pages of cold hard prose recalling the folly, greed, and weakness that oozed out

JUDGE ON TRIAL
By Ivan Klima
Translated by A. G. Brain
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

man: Adam Kindl makes Baldrick seem like Blackadder, and makes Blackadder seem like Leonardo da Vinci. The hapless judge's mistress tells him: "You're pig-headed and thoughtless. And boring. You think you're terribly passionate and amorous, but you're actually boring. You've always been boring and tedious ever since I first saw you." And sadly, it's hard to disagree with her. Prissy and indecisive, Kindl is hardly an ideal travelling companion for a long literary foot-slog, however fascinating the moral, ethical and psychological dilemmas.

Such is the breadth and complexity of the barbed wire mesh of themes which are entwined in the narrative, that attempting to disentangle these dilemmas in a few

words is rather like trying to play a game of spillikins by telegram. And not just one game, either, but two games at once, since the first person

novel is interlocked with the third person narrative of his middle-aged life. While the young Adam, longing for freedom, grows to consciousness in a wartime concentration camp, so the enlightened Adam, longing for another kind of freedom, slowly wakes up from his stupor in post-war Prague.

The overlapping narratives allow Klima to hammer away at the witlessness and irrationality with which man rules his fellow man, as today's crime becomes tomorrow's heroism, and vice versa. The distinction between the guilty and the innocent becomes arbitrary, just as Adam's position as a judge becomes ridiculous, when he realises the corruption of the legal system that he supposedly upholds. He himself is ostensibly put on trial by the party, when he is asked to judge a tricky double murder case, a gassing that conjures up vivid memories of the horrors of his childhood.

Unfortunately, this mainspring of the book winds down to an anticlimactic conclusion that may have been throbbing with resonance in 1978, but which lacks dramatic power in 1991. Bald symbolism on a level of clowns-equal-truth, eagles-equal-freedom and gas-equals-oblivion does little to pep up the double narrative. While Klima's work is neatly convincing in its deconstruction of the false polarities between "them" and "us", innocence and guilt, and truth and falsehood, there is a lack of lean meat here for which many novelists construct fictions around a protagonist who is dullness personified, but Klima has really surpassed himself with his leading

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Ivan Klima, the banned author from concentration camp, who now publishes a parable of the guilt of our time

Très English pair in Paris

Gillian Tindall

LOVE AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
By Julian Glegg
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.95

THE trouble with expatriate life, said Orwell, is that it tends to take you out of contact with real living, working, rearing children, and to narrow down your range to the street, the hothel, the studio. The extra-marital British pair of this novel are worlds away from the destitution of *Down and Out in Paris and London*, yet their isolation is more complete. Long after Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Miller, Eliot Paul, and even Styron, Anglo-Saxon Paris lives — yet here it is reduced to TEFL, drink, bed. Except for brief walk-ons, the entire French nation figures only as off-stage bourgeois meanings.

Although Waller and Connie are both supposed to have lived in Paris for years, they might as well be in

Bromley or Bexhill — and occasionally are. This is a pity, for Mr Glegg's economic and jokey style gives hints of better books, novels with other themes beyond the claustrophobic world of sexual emotion. It is not to deride love to say that, foreign language or no, it does not, alas, translate into satisfactory literature without some further transforming element or dimension, some objectivity, some idea beyond

itself. This knocked-about man of 60, this discontented housewife of 40, showing off with dirty talk on an aeroplane, are entirely believable. But, just as in real life, they are not as attractive to a third party as they are to each other.

There are good descriptions of wet laurels or flocculent skies. There are several Myburg-cum-Miller references to the Eiffel Tower as a phallic object, which the publishers might have been fiercer about; and it was also perhaps a mistake to set all the dialogue French-style, with dashes but no quotation marks. In English, this creates demarcation-problems which the form of the language does not solve (does TEFL not instruct oo this?) and anyway it is out of place in such a very English book.

Dirty work in the Balkans

BALDWIN offers a weird mix — droll camp and dense, achieved. After a brief parapoetic prose, for which the reader occasionally requires a "May, sweet, loving and much machete, are dragged along in the wake of high-speed Buchanan through Middle Europe: with the break-up of the Soviet Union, forgotten states like Montenegro are once again on the map, and that old Balkan question back on the agenda. Baldwin's forte is the extravagant set-piece, usually with vehicles exploding, crashing, or bucketing out of control down deadly hair-pie mountain roads. The latter bits in between offer not especially friendly — at least all to the reader — intricate manoeuvres between Brits, Austrians, Yugoslav factions and an unrepentant Nazi, with an entourage of women in tow, oo a grand tour of the sites of his war-time atrocities. Early exhilaration brought about by Baldwin's verve — in this writing out of the usual rut, a combination of Geoffrey Household and Patrick Leigh-Fermer on speed — gives way to exasperation, then impatience, in spite of his way with words, in the end a frustrating mix of the cryptically spot-on and way-off. Taken at the wrong speed, the dialogue can easily stop one dead. "Why — starting in London — why did Popovic want to aid stroke trick you stroke string you along like this?" Too much necessary backtracking by the buffeted reader to figure out what the hell is going on while the plot rides on roughshod — is likely to end in four flat tyres and early retirement. It's a fair bet too that the words "sees" and "pendunculate" don't feature in any of the rest of this year's pululating batch of thrillers. *Beta plus, query plus?*

Chris Petit

RATGAME
By Michael Baldwin
Macdonald, £13.95

where, a ludicrous terseness is achieved. After a brief parapoetic prose, for which the reader occasionally requires a "May, sweet, loving and much machete, are dragged along in the wake of high-speed Buchanan through Middle Europe: with the break-up of the Soviet Union, forgotten states like Montenegro are once again on the map, and that old Balkan question back on the agenda. Baldwin's forte is the extravagant set-piece, usually with vehicles exploding, crashing, or bucketing out of control down deadly hair-pie mountain roads. The latter bits in between offer not especially friendly — at least all to the reader — intricate manoeuvres between Brits, Austrians, Yugoslav factions and an unrepentant Nazi, with an entourage of women in tow, oo a grand tour of the sites of his war-time atrocities. Early exhilaration brought about by Baldwin's verve — in this writing out of the usual rut, a combination of Geoffrey Household and Patrick Leigh-Fermer on speed — gives way to exasperation, then impatience, in spite of his way with words, in the end a frustrating mix of the cryptically spot-on and way-off. Taken at the wrong speed, the dialogue can easily stop one dead. "Why — starting in London — why did Popovic want to aid stroke trick you stroke string you along like this?" Too much necessary backtracking by the buffeted reader to figure out what the hell is going on while the plot rides on roughshod — is likely to end in four flat tyres and early retirement. It's a fair bet too that the words "sees" and "pendunculate" don't feature in any of the rest of this year's pululating batch of thrillers. *Beta plus, query plus?*

The Year of The Scorpion, by Michael Hartland (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99). Female British agent stationed in Hong Kong is despatched, at the extent of government opposition, to check the extent of her superiors' thought. An arduous hike to freedom proves the most diverting part of an efficient story, which speculates on the possible fate of the colony after handover. Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, British naval secrets are being leaked to the Chinese. As in this writing out of the usual rut, a combination of Geoffrey Household and Patrick Leigh-Fermer on speed — gives way to exasperation, then impatience, in spite of his way with words, in the end a frustrating mix of the cryptically spot-on and way-off. Taken at the wrong speed, the dialogue can easily stop one dead. "Why — starting in London — why did Popovic want to aid stroke trick you stroke string you along like this?" Too much necessary backtracking by the buffeted reader to figure out what the hell is going on while the plot rides on roughshod — is likely to end in four flat tyres and early retirement. It's a fair bet too that the words "sees" and "pendunculate" don't feature in any of the rest of this year's pululating batch of thrillers. *Beta plus, query plus?*

Khalida, by Ken Perkins (Quercus, £20). Perkins, former military specialist in counter-revolutionary warfare, turns in retirement to thriller-writing, to door-stopping effect. Insurgency and military manoeuvres get efficient treatment, while brisk, cardboard characters dabble extensively in the shadow side of Middle East politics, and other rank-and-file best of the officer class. The hasty seduction of a British squaddie by a Yemeni woman — in the interests of a terrorist cause — results in a daughter who, grown up, is unwittingly assigned to kill daddy, now a smooth arms-dealer. Incest is flirted with before a hasty climax provides a too neat conclusion to a self-indulgent 500-page sprawl. *Beta minus, query minus.*

The Deceiver, by Frederick Forsyth (Bantam Press, £14.99). Given the speed of recent events, canny spy writers resort to the retrospective, and here four knocked-off short stories masquerade as something more: a survey of the last phase of the Cold War reviewed through the career of a maverick SIS operative, Sam McCready, due for the chop by expeditionary Whitehall bureaucrats, acting on the instructions of cautious politicians. McCready's hearing takes the form of four flashbacks into the familiar territory of bluff and double bluff, exposed agents and administrative shilly-shallying, the whole overploughed field. Forsyth writes, annoyingly, as one in the know, assuming a wordy air and a ponderous, lazy style: "In her private life, Renate liked what is known as 'rough trade', and this one, her regular boyfriend, was as rough as they come." Elsewhere, a ludicrous terseness is achieved. After a brief parapoetic prose, for which the reader occasionally requires a "May, sweet, loving and much machete, are dragged along in the wake of high-speed Buchanan through Middle Europe: with the break-up of the Soviet Union, forgotten states like Montenegro are once again on the map, and that old Balkan question back on the agenda. Baldwin's forte is the extravagant set-piece, usually with vehicles exploding, crashing, or bucketing out of control down deadly hair-pie mountain roads. The latter bits in between offer not especially friendly — at least all to the reader — intricate manoeuvres between Brits, Austrians, Yugoslav factions and an unrepentant Nazi, with an entourage of women in tow, oo a grand tour of the sites of his war-time atrocities. Early exhilaration brought about by Baldwin's verve — in this writing out of the usual rut, a combination of Geoffrey Household and Patrick Leigh-Fermer on speed — gives way to exasperation, then impatience, in spite of his way with words, in the end a frustrating mix of the cryptically spot-on and way-off. Taken at the wrong speed, the dialogue can easily stop one dead. "Why — starting in London — why did Popovic want to aid stroke trick you stroke string you along like this?" Too much necessary backtracking by the buffeted reader to figure out what the hell is going on while the plot rides on roughshod — is likely to end in four flat tyres and early retirement. It's a fair bet too that the words "sees" and "pendunculate" don't feature in any of the rest of this year's pululating batch of thrillers. *Beta plus, query plus?*

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London Irish losing faith

John Nicholson

TRUE BELIEVERS
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Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

PAYBACK
By Philip Harper
Simon & Schuster, £14.99

FIRST, the good news: Eddie Virago's back. The hero of Joseph O'Connor's widely acclaimed *Cowboys and Indians* actually only features in the first of the 13 stories that make up *True Believers*, but he makes a tasty entrée. Now for the great news: there's plenty more where Eddie came from.

Virago's one of the new breed of London Dubliners — the sort who tell you they know this really happening hip-hop club in Camden Town, totally wild, but is a

very cool kind of way. Several of the stories here describe the eerie things that happen to young Irishmen who come to the Big Smoke in search of fame and fortune.

True Believers is actually about people who lose their beliefs. Neither the IRA hitman who discovers his lover is a squaddie, nor the husband who leaves his wife — for good this time — but returns before dawn, totally disorientated by a young hitch-hiker he has picked up, will ever feel the same about life again. Nor will anyone unfortunate enough to stumble into the path of Willie Reids, the Adonis-like psychopath whose exploits are chronicled in *Payback*. Pain is Willie's game, the more gratuitously inflicted the better. And since "Philip Harper" is the pseudonym of a journalist/criminal psychologist writing duo, you won't be surprised to learn that the psycho hit of this new psychonoveller is pretty expertly handled. It's the thriller element that disappoints. But if it's nastiness you're after, Phil's your boy(s).

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Byron Rogers, Sunday Telegraph

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Val Hennessy, Daily Mail



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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Budding sex and thorny scenes

Geoff Brown reviews Laura Dern in
Rambling Rose, *Spartacus*, *Twenty-One*,
Monster In a Box and *Blonde Fist*

can and lanky, loping through the summer heat, she utters fateful words: "Hello, I'm Rose. I've come to live with you and your family." Rose, aged 19, in a clinging dress and permanent sexual overdrive, is about to turn this hospitable Georgia home-

stead upside down. Martha Coolidge's *Rambling Rose* (15, Odeon Haymarket), written by Calder Willingham from his own autobiographical novel, charts Rose's progress with good humour, tender feelings and some of the best screen acting around. This is a tremendously enjoyable movie; and a surprising project for Carolco Pictures, the *Rambo* boys.

Rose (endearingly played by Laura Dern, all innocent bounce and gawkiess) arrives at the Hillier's home in 1935, a servant girl from the wrong side of the tracks. Daddy Hillier eyes her with courtly paternal grace ("You're as graceful as the capital letter S"), 13-year-old Buddy takes a closer interest, and receives an initiation into manhood. When she struts down Main Street, all heads turn. "The girl strikes like a cobra," Daddy says.

Willingham's script is weak on plot, but mighty strong on dialogue, atmosphere and incident. Taeklog her first respectable assignment after teen movie follies such as *Joy of Sex*, Martha Coolidge keeps a close rein on nostalgia's golden glow and homes in tightly on her cast's faces. They rarely let her down. Diane Ladd (Dern's real-life mother) holds back her histrionics as the liberal-minded mother; Lukas Haas, the boy from *Witness*, his voice oozing broken, sweetly catches Buddy's wide-eyed curiosity. As Daddy, the perfect gentleman with a raffish edge, trying to contain Rose's rampages, Robert Duvall is vastly amusing.

Ultimately, the town physician proposes a hysterectomy to curb Rose's desires. That hurdle jumped, the film is left with some time to run, but nowhere much to run to. The flashback structure, with John Heard as a middle-aged Buddy reviving memories, offers little help. Still, Coolidge's grasp of the human comedy is so assured that we can easily forgive structural flaws. As Dern touchingly admits when her gentlemen caller gets out of hand: "I am only a human girl person, and I'm not perfect."

Rose's companion in this week's line-up is Katie, the London secretary and sexual dynamo of the low-budget British film *Twenty-One* (15, Odeon West End). "I'm not a nymphomaniac - I think I'm just averagely

sexed," she tells us, straight to camera. Director Don Boyd regularly places his talkative heroine in the confessional position. She shares Rose's appetite and a touch of her vulnerability. But this is a cynical modern miss, the *habituée* of a thousand bars, trapped in an empty affair while a drug addict lover staggers in the wings.

Like youth itself, *Twenty-One* proves a mixed blessing. Patsy Kensit nails down the type with relish, her speech festooned with London vowels. Yet Boyd keeps sabotaging his creation. Scenes are dragged past their natural length; melodrama builds like scale clogging a kettle. Katie's return to her mother's semi, where she finds her canoodling with the "piano teacher", is particularly heavy-handed.

Acting keeps the film alive. Kensit, previously known for her publicity rather than any concrete achievement, shows her mettle as the wan-ton miss groping for true friendship. Jack Shepheard makes a tasty meal of Katie's dishevelled father. And there is one electrifying debut: Rufus Sewell, plucked from regional theatre, lights up the screen as Bobby, the charming junkie who wins Katie's heart.

When Kirk Douglas's slave army raged over British screens in 1961, *Spartacus* (PG, Odeon Marble Arch) lasted 193 minutes. The present revival, in a succulently restored print, adds 180 seconds: we were missing some gore the first time round. In America, Stanley Kubrick's version of Howard Fast's novel suffered further cuts when the Legion of Decency strongly objected to Laurence Olivier limbering up for a bathhouse seduction of Tony Curtis with talk of preferences for snails or oysters. Since the original soundtrack was missing, Hollywood wizards conjured up a replacement: Curtis imitated Olivier.

Yet there is more to this revival than that: fanons, foolish scenes. For the first half, *Spartacus* barrels along with an intelligence rarely seen in today's crowd-pleasing epics. Kubrick, then a rising 31-year-old, brings a sharp cut-throat thrust to the scenes at the Capua gladiator school, and Alex North's muscular music keeps pace. As the proud Thracian slave struggling for freedom in 70 BC, Douglas parades a set grimace. But there is much variety elsewhere: droll mutterings from low-life Peter Ustinov, imperious snorts from Olivier, Yorkshire wisdom from senator Charles Laughton.

Eventually, clichés rule. "I'm a singer of songs; I also juggle," pipes Curtis. Romantic scenes



Overcoming problems with seductive charmer: Laura Dern as the oversexed teenager in *Rambling Rose*

with Jean Simmons break the momentum, and despite left-wing jargon by writer Dalton Trumbo, the slaves' plight gets pushed underfoot. But why moan? *Spartacus* offers a wonderful trip back to the days when Hollywood entertained with a swagger. Enjoy, chuckle quietly, and marvel afresh at Douglas's dimple - a hole drilled into his chin.

From a cast of thousands to one talking head: *Monster In a Box* (ICA Cinema) presents actor and writer Spalding Gray, unbundling himself of another hilarious monologue about his life and work. Jonathan Demme took charge of Gray's last cinema monologue, *Swimming to Cambodia*. This time, Britain's Nick Broomfield calls the shots, seating Gray before a table and an audience at

the Riverside Studios, London. Thus the monster: the 1,900 pages of an autobiographical novel, *Impossible Vacation*. Gray relates his creative agonies: the sweating feet, therapy sessions, diversions in Los Angeles, Nicaragua and Russia - where he tours the Hermitage with a phalanx of American film stars and gets thrown out for rolling up his trousers. (A guard interprets this as "imitating royalty".)

Gray's stories rarely reach a conventional punch-line, but he is a marvellous raconteur. Laurie Anderson provides an occasionally grating musical accompaniment; Broomfield captures the word flow with a minimum of frills.

If nothing else, *Blonde Fists* (15, Cannon Oxford Street, MGM Trocadero), the directorial debut of Frank Clarke, Liverpool wit

and author of *Letter to Brezhnev*, comes with good intentions. It means to celebrate women's pluck and the conquering of adversity. Yet a good heart by itself over makes a good film: Clarke's falls onto the screen with a potato sack's thud.

Matters begin badly enough as heroine Ronnie - single parrot, petty thief, back-street pugilist - whips up a storm of crude comedy. Then, once the spunky madam cuts loose from prison and lands in New York, searching for her wasted father, the bad gets worse. Margi Clarke (the director's sister) is a feisty player, but her *mater dolorosa* pose quickly proves wearing. We must also suffer a silly performance from Carroll Baker as an ex-showgirl chum. Some tender moments and salty quips aside, *Blonde Fists* knocks itself out in the first round.

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Picture with a personal view

David Robinson talks to Martha Coolidge, director of *Rambling Rose* (reviewed left)

Martha Coolidge is forthright and married to a writer and computer wizard. Their Beverly Hills living room is dominated by an enormous poster for Kurosawa's *Ran*, and overruled by the playthings of their toddler son Preston - named after Preston Sturges. Coolidge's commitment to the cinema is apparent. "I was formed by Truffaut and Godard and the New Wave. And Fellini. And Kurosawa, of course. They seemed to have so much energy and sophistication. At film school, though, I began to appreciate Hollywood again."

Forsaking early ambitions to be a singer, she made her first short films in college. "And that was it." After a spell in television in Canada, she returned to New York, graduated in film, and began to make documentaries: mostly portraits of people or communities. "The last film of that group was a feature-length docu-drama about my own rape, called *Not a Pretty Picture*. That attracted a lot of attention."

She tried her luck in Hollywood, where women directors were then still few. A project for a rock 'n' roll musical for Francis Ford Coppola collapsed, sending her back to Toronto and television. Another feature project, *City Girl*, suffered disastrous setbacks. It was finally rescued by Peter Bogdanovich, but was never released.

The tide turned in 1983 with *Valley Girl*, a Romeo and Juliet story about a girl from the Valley and a boy from Hollywood, which introduced Nicholas Cage. "I was paid \$5,000 to direct it; but it changed my life. It got great reviews, made a lot of money and established a standard for teen romantic comedy."

"After this I was offered endless teen comedies. I chose the wrong one: *The Joy of Sex* was a new disaster." She had better luck with *Real Genius* ("A delight. I had a budget of \$13 million as against \$325,000 on *Valley Girl*") and *Plainclothes*.

Rambling Rose, though, is the first picture I chose and personally brought to the screen. Calder Willingham had written the script in 1973, so it was already 12 years old when I read it, and 17 years old when we started production. I never saw anyone but Laura Dern in the part of Rose. I knew she would bring innocence, naivety, sexuality, grittiness and her own weird ethereal quality to make Rose a real human being."

Having joined forces in the project, Coolidge and Dern found an unexpected ally in Renny Harlin. Ordinarily a director of tough action pictures such as *Die Hard II*, the Finnish-born Harlin liked the script and decided to produce it. He found financing from Carolco, the *Terminator* producers who had just established an up-market sister company, Seven Arts.

"We were lucky to get all the cast together at the right time. Laura Dern's real-life mother,

Diane Ladd, who had worked with me on *Plainclothes*, plays the boy's mother. We had already cast them before they played mother and daughter in *Wild at Heart*. Robert Duvall initially turned down the movie, but Calder Willingham persuaded him with a beautiful letter about how the role was his father and how nobody else in the world could play it."

Coolidge speaks with awe of 14-year-old Lukas Haas. "He has done 25 movies, and therefore it is not like working with a child actor at all. He understands motivation, sub-text, character. He makes physical choices. For example he studied Robert Duvall and then based his own gestures on him. His sophistication is amazing."

"He understood completely the shape of the scene with Rose in bed. When trying to persuade Rose to let him touch her, he tells her he loves her. He is lying: he's just trying to get what



Coolidge: now "looking for the right movie"

he wants. But afterwards, when she cries and begs him never to tell, he says, 'I'll never tell, because I love you'. But now he means it. As an actor Lukas understood how the same phrase has a totally different meaning."

"He is a real professional. In that bed scene he was acting something he has never experienced, with 30 people in the room. And the only thing that is real is that he has to touch her breast. The rest is acting."

"My plan from the beginning was to put money into the set, the costumes and the props, because that defines period. We filmed in Wilmington, North Carolina, where we found a marvellous house for the main exteriors. The interiors are a set. We made it darker than people really had their rooms at the time. I wanted Rose to come into that house and bring light with her."

After *Rambling Rose* Martha Coolidge is "looking for the right movie". She says she "didn't make any commitments before *Rambling Rose* came out, because I knew it would change people's attitudes about my work; it's a very big leap for me."

Gathering of giants

THE world's biggest art prizes, the Praemium Imperiale Awards, were presented in Tokyo yesterday. The filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, composer György Ligeti, architect Gae Aulenti, sculptor Eduardo Chillida and painter Balus each received a cheque for \$110,000 (£64,000) from Prince Masahito Hitachi, the brother of Japan's Emperor. Edward Heath, Jacques Chirac and Helmut Schmidt were among those present. The Praemium Imperiale, intended to be the "Nobel Prizes" of the arts, is sponsored by Japanese businessmen. Previous winners have included Hockney, Boulez, Bernstein and Fellini.

No benefit

The FXU-400 Aids benefit concert, due to have been staged at Brixton Academy

A Getty complex

UNVEILED in Los Angeles this month was the architectural design for the Getty Center - the vast, campus-like complex in the Santa Monica mountains that will bring together many of the J. Paul Getty Trust's visual arts programmes. A mere \$360 million (£209 million) of the Getty legacy will be used to construct the centre, designed



Richard Meier: architect of the new Getty Center

by Richard Meier, which will open in 1996. It will provide a new home for the fabulous art collections of the Getty Museum, as well as the Getty Center for the History of Art, the Getty Conservation Institute and other Getty Trust projects.

Great Scots

PIANISTS will converge on Glasgow next year for the Scottish International Piano

Competition. They will be competing for £20,000 in prize money. For the first time, the competition is open to all nationalities. The event will be held in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama from September 14 to 20.

Last chance...

RICHARD Eyre's electrifying revival of Shakespeare's *Richard III* opened at the National 15 months ago, and proceeded to tour the world. The Japanese and the Egyptians are among those who have begged at Ian McKellen's Mosley-period Crookback, with his Sandhurst vowels and fascist regalia. But all evil things must come to an end, which is what this stealthy, malignant performance does on Saturday at the Apollo, Oxford (0865 244544).

ARTS REVIEWS
Benedict Nightingale on theatre; plus concerts
Page 22

TELEVISION REVIEW

Getting a grip on the drugs squad

A LARGE shipping container, coloured a dull red, is backed up towards a Los Angeles warehouse on a bright March morning. From a discreet telephone distance, the scene is filmed by a hidden camera. Outside the warehouse, a cluster of dangerous-looking Californians with ponytails and outside pectoral muscles rattle their jewellery and wait in the sunshine to offload the container's contents - a metric ton of marijuana from Nigeria. Suddenly a police siren wails, and half a dozen heavily armed stormtroopers from the Drug Enforcement Administration erupt from their hiding place: each of them hollering instructions at

the top of his voice. The surprised body-builders sensibly agree to lie on the ground with palms downward ("Assume the press-up position!" might have been the barked command), and the show is over. A successful DEA undercover operation is complete, without a single shot fired in anger.

DEA (BBC 1, last night) is produced by essentially the same team that made the famous fly-on-the-wall series *The Duty Men* in 1987, and it is similarly absorbing as an account of real events. It is remarkable that a narcotics agency, after several months spent infiltrating a big Nigerian drugs syndicate, would

agree to accommodate a film crew at crucial stages of the operation on the only condition that they promise to keep out of sight. "All right, guys. Just stay behind the lamp-post - and please, nobody cough." Yet, on the other hand, the idea is so very remarkable that it raises lots of questions. Why should "Undercover Eddie" risk so much? How was the camera team briefed? Where were the cameras placed? *DEA* did not answer such practical questions, perhaps because it is the *sine qua non* of this documentary genre in pretend that the medium is unimportant, and that the story tells itself. There is no spoken commentary, you notice. But

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford
has no patience with the patient's charter

Nobody could object to the aims of the patient's charter any more than they could approve of boorish, arrogant doctors who do not talk to their patients, or slovenly incompetent anonymous nurses more interested in their social life than their charges. For this reason, the patient's charter will be widely welcomed. The danger is that the charter may also be accepted as heralding a fundamental improvement in the medical care that patients receive. Instead it is no more than a formulation of the courtesy and the consideration that we all have a right to expect from our fellow human beings, whether we are collecting laundry from the cleaners, or attending hospital as outpatients.

The charter has more to do with manners than medicine, and there can be no practising doctor, however right-wing, who does not hope that the charter is not another form of electioneering — that it is not a move designed to distract attention from doubts felt about NHS reforms and funding.

Throughout history, patients have been in danger from charlatans who give prompt medical advice with great charm and élan in prestigious surroundings. At first the patient is delighted, and since nature cures most complaints, only a few are ever disillusioned and discover that the slickness and convenience of the consultation was a veneer to disguise inadequate treatment. The new charter provides a guarantee of a good bedside manner, but does not guarantee the quality of service that patients have a right to expect in the operating theatre and ward — services which can only be maintained if funds are available.

Waiting-lists for non-urgent operations, which tend to be alleviating rather than life-saving, have grown, partly because the general public now rightly demands the standard of health which, forty years ago, could have been afforded only by the rich, if the treatment was available at all. If the government is committed to providing this level of service, it will have to raise the funds to do so. In Britain, hospital management, doctors and nurses manage to provide a service which is remarkable, albeit sometimes deficient, when one considers that no comparable country spends so little of its national wealth on health.

The patient's charter should have been less concerned with the shadow of medical care, its niceties and trimmings, and more with the substance. Patients need not only to be seen promptly, but promptly at the right hospital: that is, a hospital chosen not on financial grounds as the result of an accountants' deal, but on medical grounds, because the general practitioner believes it to be the best for the care the patient needs. Ministers have failed to accept that different hospitals are of different standards, and excel or lag behind in different specialties.

In the past, British medicine led the world. Some of this lead has been eroded by the attrition of years of financial stringency. If, for instance, were a patient with leukaemia, I might not miss the plastic name-label on the nurse's uniform, I could forego the pleasure of complaining to the management about the lack of heating and the disgusting food; I would even be prepared to wait for more than half an hour if it was in a centre of excellence internationally known for its specialist knowledge of blood diseases. I would at least know that a short wait in the outpatients' queue should postpone a very much longer wait in purgatory, where for many of us, the discomforts are likely to be rather greater than an uncomfortable hospital chair and a chipped cup.

Richard Hope asks if the country is being misled over the postponement of the channel rail link

Mr Rifkind's signal failure

When will capacity on British Rail's south-east services be exhausted? The answer to this question, which is crucial both to our economic position in Europe and to long suffering commuters, is being bitterly disputed by the government and BR.

Today Sir Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail, confronts Roger Freeman, the minister for public transport, in a debate on international rail links organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr Reid will ram home the message that the Channel tunnel rail link is needed just as fast as we can build it, probably by 1999. Six days later, he will deliver the same uncompromising verdict to the House of Commons Transport Committee.

This is a public refutation of the extraordinary claim made by the transport secretary Malcolm Rifkind three weeks ago that we will not need a new railway from London to the Channel tunnel until 2005.

Mr Rifkind was rapturously received when he announced at the Tory conference that he was rejecting BR's route through south-east London in favour of

entry along the north side of the Thames through Stratford. His audience might have been less enthusiastic if he had quoted from the letter he had just handed to Sir Bob. Noting that a start on the rail link was "some way ahead", the transport secretary advised BR's chairman that "on present forecasts, existing capacity is not expected to be exhausted until around 2005".

Organisations representing commerce and industry were quick to condemn what looked like a decision to put off for 14 years the provision of adequate rail capacity between Britain and her EC trading partners.

For Sir Bob it was a stunning blow. BR has long maintained that capacity on the congested commuter lines between London and Folkestone would be exhausted some time between 1998 and 2000. Most commentators have predicted serious overloading and delays well before that.

Interviewed on *Thames News*,

however, Mr Rifkind claimed: "British Rail themselves came forward and advised us that, in their judgment — not ours, their judgment — we do not require extra capacity until round about 2005. That's about 14 years from now. That was their judgment, we have no reason to differ with that. Even their own proposal would have taken just as long to build."

Now "capacity exhaustion" is a bit like "the day the oil runs out". In reality, it happens gradually, as demand is choked off by unreliability and higher prices. But the suggestion that BR has doubled its estimate of the time before capacity exhaustion after the tunnel opens — from six to 12 years — is categorically denied by every single person within the organisation to whom I have spoken.

As regards international passengers, the position remains as summed up in BR's policy statement "Future Rail", issued on July 30: "Upgraded track in the south east will provide for market

growth up to 18-20 million passengers a year towards the end of the decade, but additional capacity will then be needed." I have read from cover to cover the lengthy volumes on the four rail-link options that BR presented to Mr Rifkind last May. There is no mention of 2005.

That leaves the commuters. Two teams of consultants hired by Network SouthEast predicted last year that commuting from Kent would increase by 25 to 31 per cent by 2001. Since that forecast was made in 1990, employment in London has slumped and commuting is about 8 per cent down. So has some clever-clogs in the Treasury decided that the date of capacity exhaustion can be set back by six years?

That is certainly not BR's judgment. NSE plans to run the same number of trains as before, but has deferred until 1999 at the earliest replacement of existing trains by new ones with more seats. Roger Moate MP has been

assured by Chris Green, director of Network SouthEast, that additional capacity for Channel tunnel trains can be provided only by reducing the network's services. This would be quite contrary to commitments given by the board that the quality of service in the region will not be worsened by international services. Mr Green affirmed that "while the recession has delayed commuter growth, the requirement for additional track capacity has not gone back."

The most compelling reason why it is absolutely impossible for BR to have unearthed an extra six years' worth of capacity since July 30 is technical. As anybody rash enough to attempt weekend travel in Kent will know, a major programme of track and signalling renewal involving serious disruption to train services is in progress. The aim of the engineers is to complete by mid-1993 every task necessary before the new link opens in 1999. In

this way, the hard-pressed tracks feeding the tunnel will enjoy a six-year "window", free of the usual engineering blockages. But if opening of the new line were postponed beyond 1999, the engineers would be forced to move in, causing serious delays to international passenger and freight trains. Given the current intensity of engineering work in Kent, it would be impossible for BR to complete by mid-1993 all the additional work necessary to keep these routes free of blockages until 2005.

The question remains: why was Mr Rifkind so adamant that 2005 was "BR's judgment" when quite obviously it is not? Did some imprudent (and ill-informed) BR executive have a glass of sherry, or — worse — commit his heretical thoughts to paper? Next week the Transport Committee must ask Mr Rifkind if he can produce any document to support his assertion. If not, he has misled Parliament and the country on a matter vital to Britain's relations with Europe.

The author is consultant editor of *Railway Gazette*.

Don't slam the door on strangers

For centuries, writes Bernard Levin, Britain has gained from immigrants, and we should go on welcoming them

It occurs to me that I spent the best years of my life, without hope of emolument, telling people who ought to know already that the Federal Republic of Germany was not going to start a third world war. Nor did she, possibly because she didn't want to upset me.

Then the Wall came down, and the two Germanies were again one. I locked myself in the broom cupboard, refusing to come out in case I might have been obliged to explain all over again. And indeed I may yet have to: the sight of German skinheads wearing Nazi insignia, giving the Nazi salute and demanding the return of Hitler (their grasp of modern history is not strong), is enough to curdle the milk.

But it is not enough to topple German democracy, not even when German democracy is increased overnight by 17 million more Germans who have heard nothing about democracy for nearly half a century. No, shaven heads and bad teeth are not enough. If you want a reassuring cootie, look back out long ago at the rampaging in London of people apparently identical except for the language in which they made their silly threats; they call themselves "Class War", and think they are tremendous devils, within spitting distance of taking over the country. But up close, in the poll tax demonstration, they turned out to be a bunch of rather sweet lads with scrupulously clean hair (if worn), and feet clad in neat trainers, whose nearest approach to revolution was breaking half the windows in St Martin's Lane.

Germany will survive intact, and she is not going to stage a new Night of the Long Knives; the punk-Nazis will soon be forgotten. But it can hardly be a coincidence that the physical attacks upon ordinary people in Germany — assaults, destruction

of property and the like — have been directed almost entirely against refugees.

In Britain, we do not set fire to the houses of immigrants who have fled from their native lands; we rarely knock them about, or even shout unpleasantness at them. Yet it is not difficult to notice that there is a rising tide of anti-refugee feeling here, and it is only the fear of mixing a metaphor that prevents me saying that the rising tide in question is being fanned into flame.

Here, I must declare an interest. I come of not one but two families of refugees. My maternal grandparents came from Russia to Britain late in the last century and settled here. They had five children, one of them being my mother. My father came to Britain by a different route, starting with his sister, in his native Lithuania; I inherited from him the traditional Litvak's like of sharp tastes. From my maternal grandfather I learned that inner peace is the secret of happiness; from my father's sister I learned that making a tremendous noise not only gets things done but is very enjoyable as well.

I am not much given to pondering about what might have been; still, I do realise that if my paternal grandparents and my father had stayed where they were born, I would have been murdered, a thought that concentrates the mind wonderfully. It also sharpens the feelings of experience when I read some of the increasingly hysterical demands for insuperable barriers to be erected against the alien hordes. It is a very long time —



getting on for half a century — since I read and heard such xenophobic ravings, and these latest outbursts come from people who should — and do — know better.

When I read the *Daily Mail* on the subject ("...exposed the flood of immigrants... the threat to Britain... How can we stem this tide?... These invaders...")

rapid vetting... should be kept in camps... cannot demand to share in the prosperity we have worked to create...") I could almost believe that I was back in the time, more than fifty years ago, when the *Mail's* heroes were Mosley and Fascism; yet most of the words in that parenthesis were by — of all humane and well-balanced men — Graham Turner. I find that even my beloved Woodrow has written words, in the *News of the World*, that he should be ashamed of.

Mind, we are not talking about the racist remains of the Monday Club and their like. When cabinet ministers whip the dogs

of xenophobia in the hope of electoral increment, we are in serious trouble. But is there anybody left in this country who has read its history? Century after century, new blood has filled us, and we have been the better for it. From the Huguenots to the Nazi-era Jews and onwards to the present day, Britain has steadily become a more mixed nation. (Do you worry about the vile bigotry of many of the Muslim leaders? So do I, but don't envy their children's cleanliness, respect for the old and hard study? And don't we admire the Hindus' similar application, particularly because it comes with much less bigotry?)

Now what about a little arithmetic, a science that seems to have been entirely forgotten as the howling rises? The Home Office's estimate of the influxes is around 1,000 a week, and although no sensible person would take the word of the Home Office uncorroborated, in this instance it would be very unlikely to underestimate the numbers. A thousand a week? A thousand a week? A THOUSAND A WEEK? Stand by to repel boarders!

But wait. 50,000 a year is a million in 20 years, about one-fifth of our present population — which, I must remind you, is steadily falling. Can we really be afraid of a couple of percentage points when we immigration has given us over the centuries?

What exactly is it that we are afraid of? Do we shudder at skins of different hues contaminating our whiteness? But that has been going on since just after the second world war, and we have not all turned cannibal, nor even coffee-coloured. Do we tremble at the sound of the mullah in Bradford? But we long ago reduced our adherence to the Christian religion to a nod and a christening. I do assure you that the battle of Lepanto was a very long time ago, and anyway the Christians won it.

Do we worry about our children being taught "one potato, two potatoes" in Hindi? Well, we can change their schools, as the spirited lady (who, incidentally, has a black husband) not long ago did, though speaking as a childless bachelor, I would rather like to know the Hindi for that venerable chorus, and for that matter my own favourite among such union chants, which is "My teacher's got a bunion, a nose like a pickled onion, a face like a squashed tomato, and two stinky feet." (Perhaps Dr Siddiqui might offer his own eloquent version — it would, after all, be the only known useful action yet attributed to him.)

You don't have to go back centuries to find incomers who have brought us a wide variety of human riches. Before the second world war, we were notably enriched by the Jewish scientists and musicians who came to Britain with their skills and arts. After it, the West Indians taught us (apart from the calypso) that mangoes, green peppers, aubergines and the like are not deadly poisons but enjoyable vegetables. After them came the influx from the Indian subcontinent and Hong Kong, and now where would we be for a late meal without Indian and Chinese restaurants?

Of course it isn't just food; the cultures and religions they brought have given us philosophies, insights and profundities of immense value to us all. And if you want to be basely economic, the immigrants, as is their wont, have taken the lowest jobs while their children have taken the highest places in the degree-lists. I ask again: what are we so afraid of when we insist on defining "refugee" so fiercely that Rabbi Ben Ezra would have been sent straight to Hitler at Heathrow as seeking only economic advantage. Come to think of it, Jesus himself said something to the point: "I was a stranger and ye took me in." Somehow, it wouldn't be the same if the verse read "I was a stranger, and ye chucked me out."



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

I swear by my answerphone. I leave it on, it says that I am out, and then it takes a message from a friend, who asks me to call back later. Later, I listen to the answerphone and ring the friend, who is not there either. His answerphone agrees to take a message. I leave a message on his answerphone, asking him to call back later. He calls back later, and the answerphone replies.

Last night I was going out, so I switched on the answerphone. But then I changed my mind and came back, closing the front door rather quietly behind me. As I was taking off my boots in the hall, I heard the telephone ringing upstairs in the bedroom. After three rings, the answerphone intercepted.

First, I heard my voice giving out its well-educated instructions. "I'm afraid there is no one in to take your call at the moment, but if you would leave your name and number after the beep I will call you back when I return."

"Hello," the other voice began. I expected it to leave the same old message as usual, saying sorry it had missed me and asking me to call back. But its message was entirely different.

"Is he out?" it said. I sat up, my boot still wedged upon my foot. It continued. "I said, is he out?"

To my astonishment, the next thing I heard was my own answerphone voice. "Yes," my answerphone replied, "he left

five minutes ago. Won't be back for a while. How're things?"

I sat stock-still in a state of shock. Never before had my answerphone shown an inkling of independence.

"Not bad. On night-duty as ever," said the voice of my friend's answerphone, a little more sullen than usual and a lot less smart. "Bloody nerve, the way they expect us to hang about all hours just to pick up their messages."

"No kidding," said my own voice. I was horrified. It is an expression I never use, particularly on answerphones, where formality is my watchword. I thought to interrupt, even to switch it off entirely, but before I could move, the sound of my voice boomed out once more: "Anyone interesting rung?"

"You must be joking!" said the voice of my friend, its timbre growing steadily more yobbish. "Just the usual: lab-de-dah types, more money than sense, the silver-spoon brigade with invites to nosebag."

The rank treachery of our answerphones was now dawning on me. We had entrusted them with messages of impeccable good taste, full of terrific courtesy, and here they were, the moment our backs were turned, talking ribaldly amongst themselves in the most disloyal manner imaginable.

"Tell you what," said my voice — an expression I have never used, either in public or in private — "Tell you what, how's about us gettin' the Editor of *The*

Times on the line for a bit of a barney. Some of them jokes he comes up with — wicked, they are, just wicked."

The next thing I remember hearing was the answerphone of the Editor of *The Times*, politely apologising for his absence and asking that any messages be left after the tone. I breathed a sigh of relief that he was out: had he encountered my answerphone in its present mood, my career might have been in ruins.

"Are you and of his message," "Gordon Bennett" came the voice of the Editor, coarser than I had ever heard him. "Of course I bloody am! Morning, noon and night, who does he think he is, I ask myself?"

The three voices — my own, my friend's and the Editor's — then exchanged gossip and complaints about us and our little ways for half an hour. Every now and then they would stop to intercept incoming calls, reverting to their more formal voices and reciting their set scripts. Then they would resume their vulgar chatter.

Why did I not put my foot down? Instead, I sat there in trepidation, terrified that my answerphone might hear me downstairs. The conversation eventually ended ("Cheery-bye", "Ta-ra", "See ya"), and I sought to make my presence known with a slam of the door. There hasn't been a squeak from the machine since. Instead, it just sits there, glowing at me, looking horribly resentful.

Trusting to luck

AS the Queen presides over the state opening of Parliament today, she may ponder what has gone wrong with the arrangements for an even more glittering occasion: next year's 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne. The Royal Anniversary Trust, set up to organise the celebrations, appears to be in disarray.

Of the £9 million target the trust hoped to raise, no more than £1 million has yet materialised. The trust's chairman, George Younger, a former Tory defence secretary, says: "It is quite true that we have not got all the money tied up yet. After a gloomy meeting this week, another trustee, Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, says: 'We faced up to the worrying financial situation. The recession is hitting even us, and we are taking steps to put things right. But this has to be done from the private sector, and we are not going to turn to the government to bail us out.'"

The disappointing response to the appeal is likely to raise questions about the performance of Robin Gill, the trust's chief executive. But Younger, who is also chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, offers a spirited, if mixed, defence of his chief executive. "Robin is a strong character and he probably does rub people up the wrong way. But equally, he rubs others up the right way."

But money is not the only problem. The trust's initial glossy brochure had to be reprinted and the company brought in to publicise the anniversary's centrepiece, the "Sovereign" exhibition at the V & A, has been summarily removed. Pearson, which is funding the exhibition, was so concerned that it insisted on bring-



ing in its own man. Younger says: "That was a perfectly straightforward management problem. It's not unusual to find sometimes that you've got the wrong chap."

Unfortunately, the trust seems to make a habit of picking wrong chaps. It has also recently parted company with its press and public relations adviser. Yesterday the trust was unable to offer anyone to speak to the press other than Gill, the chief executive, who was "unavailable" for the day.

The designer age and the dry world of accountancy were always unlikely bedfellows, and *Companies House* had enough of the unsuitable marriage. It has called for an end to the vogue among public companies for employing fashionable designers to produce glossy annual reports. "They don't microfilm very well," says a spokesman. "We would like to go back to good old fashioned black-and-white with a matt finish. A typed version or printer's proof will do nicely."

Church adrift

IF the people will not come to church, the church must go to the people. St Anne's, a fine Hawksmoor church in Limehouse on the north bank of the Thames, is planning to set up a floating church on a barge. It will sail down river

to minister to thousands of new parishioners coming to work 15 minutes away at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

The Rev John Pearce hopes to build his barge-church complete with a Christian literature bookshop, a meeting room for up to 50, and facilities for communion.

"If there is only an hour for lunch, and it takes 15 minutes to walk to church, people may not have time," says Simon Dowdy of St Anne's. "But by having a church moored to the side of Canary Wharf, we shall be only five minutes from people's desks."

The church is launching an appeal

to raise the £100,000 needed to fund the barge. May it meet a better fate than the only known precedent: the ill-fated floating church in Peter Carey's Booker-winning novel *Oscar and Lucinda*.

Some hope. The University of Sussex has already changed its letterhead to read "The University of Sussex at Brighton". Adrian McAllister, of the university founded in Brighton 25 years ago, insists this name-change is merely "a minor matter".

But, adds McAllister, "We do get irritated when people refer to the polytechnic as Brighton University. That is quite wrong of course. We are the university."

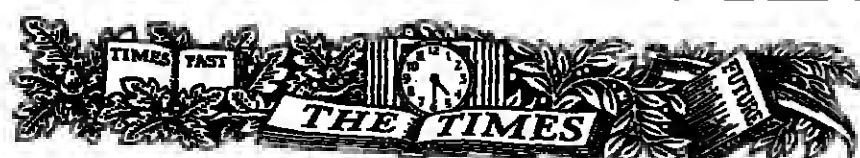
● *Kalamazoo College, Michigan, has been forced to change the name of its annual art olympics, in which the rodents jump hurdles for the benefit of psychology students learning about conditioning. With preparations for next July's games in full swing, an Olympic official said: 'It's not the kind of image we want to convey.'*

Finis

COURT PROCEEDINGS will soon be a little easier to understand if the progressive chairman of the Bar Council has his way. Anthony Scriven QC has called for Latin to be banned in court.

But Lord Justice Staughton, a noted classicist, says Latin still has a place in the judicial system. "If people can talk in English, they should. But some Latin phrases have been adopted, and have no suitable translation. For example, *volenti non fit iniuria* is a mouthful in English. It comes out as: 'the law does not recognise harm happening to someone who encountered it willingly.'"

Yet even Staughton admits that things may have to change. "Lawyers are no longer required to study Roman law. I agree that Latin is dead, but it has a marvelous literature, and it does teach you to write accurately." *De peius non disputandum*. Or, Scriven would probably prefer each according to his own taste.



CARDS ON THE TABLE

Peace in the Middle East, President Bush said yesterday, cannot be imposed by the United States. It must "come from within". Progress could be made only by "the parties who must live with the consequences". In a sense, this is all too obvious. Yet America's ability to act as a "catalyst" for peace, Mr Bush's chosen description of Washington's role, has been powerfully demonstrated by the composition of his tense audience in Madrid's Palacio Real, where for the first time Israel and all its neighbours, including Palestinians, were seated together.

Washington alone had the capacity to bring this about, although the Soviet Union's recognition of Israel and abandonment of the cause of Arab militancy have cooled the Middle East cauldron. The Arabs are there because the outcome of the Gulf war, the diminishing power of what used to be called the oil weapon and superpower co-operation have convinced them that Israel cannot be swept into the sea. The Israeli government is there because James Baker's diplomacy, coupled with Mr Bush's success in winning Congressional postponement of \$10 billion in loan guarantees, convinced Yitzhak Rabin that Israel had no choice.

So meticulous has been Mr Baker's preparatory groundwork that Mr Bush could have limited his opening speech to platitudes. He chose instead to take a maximalist position. He avoided such emotive phrases as "land for peace" but glossed over none of the components of the complicated equations calculated by Mr Baker.

To the Arabs, he said that replacing a state of war with mere non-belligerence was "not enough". They must sign treaties with Israel and learn to live with it. To the Israelis, while he naturally avoided specifics about final borders, he insisted that "territorial compromise is essential". How much Israel might be asked to yield would depend on "the quality of both security and political arrangements". But yield something for security it must. He assured the Palestinians that "peace must also be based on fairness", without which "there will be no legitimacy, no stability". They must "have meaningful control over their own lives" in return for accepting Israel's right to a secure existence. In agreeing to come to Madrid the

Palestinians have made the only substantive as opposed to procedural concession so far. In this most acutely intractable area of the negotiations, the Americans have capitalised on the consequences of Yasser Arafat's decision to support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. That diplomatic disaster so weakened Arab and Western support for the Palestinian cause that Mr Baker was able to induce the Palestinians to accept tough ground-rules for talks in return for a somewhat disguised seat at the table as part of the Jordanian delegation. These are not light years removed from Mr Shamir's offer in 1989, which they had hitherto rejected, of limited autonomy in the occupied territories plus negotiations on a final settlement.

The conference invitation binds Israel and the Palestinians to negotiate "interim self-governing arrangements". With these, under the American timetable which Mr Bush emphasised yesterday, the Palestinians would have to rest content for five years. Even if the timetable is adhered to for an interim agreement, negotiations on their "permanent status" would begin only after three. The only carrot on offer from Mr Bush yesterday was that no interim settlement would prejudice the final result.

As little as a year ago, Mr Bush's speech would have been condemned on all sides. Yesterday, each delegation seized on the words which most favoured its case. The next stage will be depressing, the language of statesmanship drowned in the rancour of the souk. The Middle East contains the world's toughest bargainers and the only remotely obvious bargain on the horizon is between Syria and Israel over the Golan Heights.

The Americans have played an open hand. They have been able to do so because they hold stronger cards than any of the regional players. For all Mr Bush's bland assurance that the US would accept whatever these quarrelling neighbours find acceptable, Mr Bush yesterday set "the twin tests of fairness and security". He has reminded all parties that America will continue to refuse to take no for an answer. That will, through the months to come, remain America's strongest suit as step by step, Mr Baker works to replace the pyrotechnics of hatred with the practicalities of peace.

CHARTERING THE NHS

The patient's charter, which the health secretary, William Waldegrave, unveiled yesterday, is in some respects a palliative, but it is not a placebo. The charter has the virtue of shifting debate away from Labour's charges of "creeping privatisation", onto the real differences between government and opposition on the National Health Service.

By introducing the language of standards and rights into an institution which has tended to treat patients as passive recipients of care, Mr Waldegrave is implicitly rejecting the NHS of the past. Instead of retreating from the internal market, as some Tories have urged him to do, the health secretary is hurling his bridges. Having approved the creation of a new tranche of hospital trusts earlier this month, he is telling a sceptical public that the NHS must be reformed if it is to meet his standards.

Mr Waldegrave has often been on the defensive in the past few months. The charter is designed to seize back the initiative. It will arouse higher public expectations. But that is deliberate. It makes greater efficiency imperative if those expectations are to be realised. The independence conferred on hospitals by trust status, and on general practitioners by control of budgets will be put to the test. Competition becomes the spur to spread good practice. Without binding contracts between provider and health authority, without the choice and flexibility which self-management brings, this charter will be a dead letter.

But higher expectations may also backfire on the government. Doubts begin with the question of enforcement. Though said to be "fundamental", the patient's new "rights" are not enforceable at law. There is no guarantee that a hospital will meet national standards for such politically sensitive areas as waiting times for outpatient appoint-

ments or emergency services. The ultimate sanction is to complain to the Health Service Commissioner. Managers who fail to abide by the charter may have their pay docked. Will this be enough?

In many, even most cases, the answer should be yes. Waiting lists could usually be brought down to the maximum period of two years, as specified in the charter, merely by giving low priority operations a higher priority. That would not guarantee better use of scarce hospital resources. More urgent cases who would normally be treated quickly might have to wait longer — unless local authorities use the internal market to shop around the regions for urgent cases. The government should press them to do so.

The monopolistic, centralised and bureaucratic character of the NHS has often proved inimical to the comfort and convenience of patients, and sometimes to their health as well. The contractual basis of the internal market made it necessary to lay down minimum standards. They are not just an election ploy, but essential to the functioning of the system.

Labour would thus be wise to adopt most of the charter's principles, rather than merely dismissing it as "toothless", as Robin Cook did yesterday. He apparently wants an even tougher charter. But Mr Cook might not agree with all the implications of the present one. Does he accept, for example, that a health authority which could not get an operation done within two years at an NHS hospital might decide to pay for it to be carried out privately? If Labour wants a charter with more teeth, how much more cash will it promise to provide to make it work? What, if any, is Labour's alternative to the internal market and contracts? Here there is fertile ground for a real health debate, instead of the recent shadow-boxing.

UNIVERSE OF WONDER

Britain is famously bad at marketing its scientific genius. New historical evidence reported in *The Times* today suggests that this national failing was a problem even in the age of the Tudors. Colin Ronan, president of the British Astronomical Association, has uncovered evidence that the astronomical telescope, a reflector, was probably invented by an English scientist, Leonard Digges, between 1540 and 1559. Hitherto, the inventors of the astronomical telescope were thought to be two Dutchmen, Hans Lippershey and Zacharias Jansen, who invented a refractor in 1608. A great British achievement can now be celebrated, albeit 400 years too late.

Mr Ronan expects a row to erupt in the academic community. Disputes over priority are common coin in the world of science. Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz fought a raging battle over who invented calculus. Leibniz went public with his theory in 1684, 20 years before Newton — who still insisted that the original idea, which he called "fluxions", was his. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was chased through the courts by his rival Elisha Gray. More recently, Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo engaged in a scholarly brawl over the discovery of the AIDS virus. Does this sort of controversy matter?

The history of invention is bound to be inexact. True innovations can be wrongly attributed, or fall through the historical

sieve, as in the case of Leonard Digges. It is also possible to exaggerate the significance of invention. Every discovery reflects a process of slow scientific evolution and a specific social context, as well as a flash of inspiration. The philosopher, Thomas Kuhn, has argued that inventions have more to do with broad "paradigm" shifts in knowledge than individual genius, and that the very notion of scientific discovery is therefore suspect.

But this is a tepid approach to invention. It squeezes the pith out of human thought. Great science is celebrated not only as a means of uncovering useful information, but as a form of heroism. Einstein's bewhiskered face, coupled with his legendary formula, is one of the most successful poster images of the century. His brain, the nearest thing the nuclear age has to a holy relic, has been sampled and studied to find what makes a man at the frontiers of understanding tick. Now Professor Stephen Hawking appears to have assumed his mantle as popular interpreter of the cosmos.

This is why the inventor of the reflecting telescope is worthy of a place in the pantheon and why Mr Ronan's researches into his identity are more than engaging trivia. What Kepler called the "sacred fury" of discovery remains a key to understanding the human condition and continues to exercise its own peculiar fascination. Eureka is the cry that separates man from beast.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Opportunity 2000: women's views on top jobs and home commitments

From Professor Anthea Tinker

Sir, You report the views of women's organisations nationwide and 30 women who have already reached top positions in their careers that flexible and affordable child care should be top of the list of priorities in a charter for women (article, October 28; report, October 29). This, and the other suggestions put forward, are clearly of crucial importance. But let us not forget the views of those who have not reached the top.

It is clear from research that many women are unable to take jobs, or can only take part-time ones, because of the informal care they give to elderly people. In a recent survey it was estimated that there were 1.5 million women in Great Britain looking after a sick, handicapped or elderly person living in their own, or in another, household. Over three quarters of the people cared for were over the age of 65. We need services to support these carers as well as help for women with children.

Perhaps we also need a change of attitudes too. Your leader, "Helping women to work" (October 29), was all about getting women into paid employment. Most women do work in a paid or unpaid capacity but receive little recognition if they are not paid. We need to value informal care, by men and by women, as much as we do paid employment.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHEA TINKER (Director,
Age Concern Institute of
Gerontology),
King's College London,
Cornwall House Annex,
Waterloo Road, SE1,
October 29.

From Mrs Susan J. S. Durrant

Sir, I note that 12 out of the 30 women featured in your article "What women want a manifesto" (October 28) are not mothers. "Flexible and affordable childcare", the first item of your "charter for women", is no substitute for the respect and appreciation of a woman's family commitments by her competitors, colleagues and superiors.

Transplant services

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Ross Taylor, the Newcastle transplant surgeon, has decided to withdraw from the kidney swap scheme run by the United Kingdom Transplant Authority because of the imbalance (25 to 1) between the number of kidneys donated by his region and those received by it (report, October 25). I have some sympathy with his action: organ donations between regional health authorities cannot be a one-way traffic and if Mr Taylor is providing kidneys for the benefit of people outside his area and getting nothing back he is right to react.

However, his decision raises the question why some regions are able both to provide for their own patients — I only had to wait six weeks for my kidney transplant in Oxford — and to be net exporters of organs while others make virtually no contribution to the service.

In the end it comes down to the attitude of the transplant teams and how diligent they are in asking the donors' next of kin for permission to take the organs. Sadly, some of them do not seem to consider this a matter of much priority.

At one time there was talk of introducing the American approach which is called "required request". That would make it a legal requirement for every hospital with a potential donor to approach the next of kin. The UK have not proceeded with it because of the difficulty of enforcement.

However, there really should be no need for the law. If it is accepted that transplantation is both ethical and life-enhancing it is difficult to see why those responsible for it will not automatically seek every possible organ.

In those terms Mr Taylor has done the whole transplant movement a service. Something needs to be done to make health regions more aware of their responsibility to obtain every available organ. Only that way will we be able to reduce the overlong kidney waiting lists.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON
(President, National Kidney Federation),
House of Commons,
October 25.

Whitehall and academe

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex at Brighton

Sir, Permanent secretaries as foster parents ("Mandarin" meet the university challenge" October 29) are a good thing, and will help bring universities and polytechnics close together.

Two years ago, a small group of universities and polytechnics in the South set up an informal consortium (referred to by a wag as "Southern Comfort") for trans-binary co-operation. It has now expanded to include the Universities of Kent, Southampton, Surrey and Sussex and the Polytechnics of Brighton, Kingston, Portsmouth, South Bank and Thames. Working relationships are in consequence now much closer.

With further concentration and selectivity of government funding now in prospect, I recommend others to band together too, in the same spirit. (Cheers!)

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE FIELDING,
Sussex House,
University of Sussex at Brighton,
Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
October 24.

Weather vacuum

From Mrs F. Matthew

Sir, On landing at Gatwick airport at 1am, after a three-hour delay, I found the weather was very foggy around the airport. Anxious not to do the whole journey to Bournemouth in fog, I attempted to check what it was like between Gatwick and the west. The attendant at the information desk suggested I rang the AA weather service. I did so, but was greeted by an answerphone saying the office was closed until 7am. Would it not be possible for airports to provide some round-the-clock guidance on weather conditions for passengers travelling home, especially in the winter?

Yours faithfully,
F. MATTHEW,
66 Baring Road, Southbourne,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
October 24.

Women in a position of public influence all too often seek to camouflage the importance and persistence of their domestic commitments. I do not think there is any question of an ambitious "family woman" being on an even starting block with her male counterpart in the "race to the top". She simply cannot hope to compete equally with her male counterpart, and this should be recognised with due credit, not malevolence.

Although equipped with Filofax, facsimile, photocopier and finance she lacks that peculiarly unattainable business asset: the housewife.

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN DURRANT (Solicitor),
8 Samian Gate,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
October 28.

From Mrs Penny Hearn

Sir, Being a "working" woman (a wine-buying manager) and expecting our first child, I wonder why child care is often considered a "women's" issue. For instance, if employer-paid child care ever became the norm, why should our child's not be provided by my husband's employer once I return to work?

Yours faithfully,
PENNY HEARN,
16 Ridgeway Road,
Farnham, Surrey,
October 29.

From Mrs Kirsteen Tait

Sir, When I joined the home civil service in 1963 there were few women in the administrative grades. One reason for this was that you had to resign if you wanted to take more than one month off work per child. This ruled out breast-feeding after four weeks and staying at home for the early years, and if you chose to take a long period off to look after children you had to start again.

I only knew of one woman who managed to negotiate a part-time return to her administrative job. Is it so surprising that there are few women at the top of the civil service today?

I personally believe the skills

EC intervention

From Mr Peter F. Kunzlik

Sir, As the solicitor advising the Twyford Down Association in respect of its complaint to the European Commission concerning the extension of the M3 at Winchester, I was surprised that the prime minister and the secretary of state for transport should express their surprise at the Commission's recent intervention (reports, October 19, 22).

My clients wrote to Mr Rifkind and to some of his officials on August 29 this year, enclosing a copy of a letter to me from the Commission officially notifying me that the Commission did intend to write a letter to the government under article 169 of the Treaty of Rome relating, inter alia, to their complaint concerning the M3. The Commission is quite entitled to do this since, if the M3 complaint is

Attack on the Lords

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, On October 17, in what purported to be a "sketch" of the debate in the House of Lords on defence, Mr Matthew Parris concluded:

I looked down those impending to speak, now gathered in this gilded chamber. Field marshals, admirals, foreign and defence ministers... Here were senior representatives of government and the military from every political reverse, every colonial surrender, every defeat at the hands of terrorists for nearly half a century. It was a cavalcade of decline, a panoply of imperial failure, a collective loss of will to govern.

None of the 41 speakers had any connection with Suez; only two formed part of a government in recent times, and that only in a minor capacity. Anyhow, among the "failures and reverses" attributed by Mr Parris to HMG, must we assume that he includes the part played in the development of Nato, the defeat of the communists in Malaya, the Falklands and the Gulf wars, and the continuing struggle against terrorism in Northern Ireland?

But it is Mr Parris's evident contempt for my colleagues, and notably his failure even to mention the very moving maiden speech of Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, that is really intolerable.

Yours truly,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords.

To each his own

From Mrs Pauline M. Atkins

Sir, Mr Tom MacKean (letter, October 22) should be told that government policies on "access to the countryside", and their implementation by the Countryside Commission, do indeed indicate that he is being intolerant.

The proposed new National Trail, or the "Pennine Bridleway" as it has been erroneously designated by the Countryside Commission, is not to be a bridleway per se. It is to cater for an estimated 6,000 user-days per annum by walkers and 3,000 user-days by mountain-bikers in addition to 1,000 by horse-riders.

For its creation, many footpaths would become bridleways and bridleways become multi-use tracks. Additional sections of the trail would be newly created, if necessary

by order, so that a 270-mile linear route would cater for communal countryside pilgrimages. Carriage-driving is also envisaged, so that one is tempted to believe boating enthusiasts might eventually be attracted to stretches of the trail which, inevitably, would become water-courses.

Yours, also with indignation,
PAULINE M. ATKINS,
Golbreck, Brough Sowerby,
Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria.

From Mr Joel W. Robinson

Sir, Mr MacKean seems to be unaware that cyclists have a right of access to bridleways, whether it be on a mountain bike or any other style of bicycle. Any cyclist wishing to ride solely on the road would have more than likely bought a road bike.

Yours faithfully,
JOEL W. ROBINSON,
5 Sturry Close,
Maasfield Road, Clowne,
Cheshire, Derbyshire.

"Thousands of women are already equipped to serve the public with distinction... It's just a matter of finding them and making sure their chances of an appointment are quite as good as that of a man".

Dr Segerman-Perk of the Women Two Public Life campaign has already supplied over 1,000 suitable women's names to the Public Appointments Unit at the Cabinet Office, yet the prime minister is now appointing a minister in each department of state responsible for the appearance of women's names on every shortlist for public appointments — all 43,000 of them.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE ABDELA,
The Lodge, Conock Manor,
Chirton, Wiltshire,
October 30.

From Mrs E. J. Boyling

Sir, Until men are prepared to share not just the business environment but, far more importantly, the home environment equally with women, women will be unable to share the same career opportunities.

Whilst a charter for women is all "good stuff", the burden of the home and the organisation of it remains, apparently, the woman's. All I see from Opportunity 2000 is that women will reach their graves earlier by having to be even better organisers.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. BOYLING,
1 Riverview Grove, Chiswick, W4,
October 29.

From Dr L. M. Blayney

Sir, Let us not forget men should legislation be contemplated for Opportunity 2000. A more flexible system of reduced working hours for them would not only create opportunities to promote women but would liberate men from the restrictive bonds of "breadwinner" to participate equally in family life.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA BLAYNEY,
St Davids, 1 Westfield Road,
Chyba Park, Newport, Gwent,
October 29.

justified and the Commission seems to think that it is, then the United Kingdom has broken the law. The Commission is after all expressly charged by article 169 of the Treaty of Rome with the authority to police compliance with EC law by bringing infringement proceedings against defaulting member states.

Nor should the government be surprised that the Commissioner thought fit to request that the M3 development site be protected pending the outcome of the Commission's deliberations. The site is of unique environmental importance and despite a number of requests from my clients the Department of Transport consistently stated, prior to the Commission's intervention, that it saw no reason to delay commencement of the works.

Yours sincerely,
PETER KUNZLIK,
Hammond Suddards (Solicitors),
Avenue des Arts 41, 1040 Brussels.

Delays in paying bills

From Mr R. E. Stockdale

Sir, We are forensic scientists in private practice working almost exclusively for defending solicitors who ask us to look afresh at the prosecution's scientific evidence in criminal trials. As such, most of our work is indirectly funded by legal aid administered by the Lord Chancellor's officials in the Crown courts.

Their capacity for administrative delay means that we and others like us wait on a financial knife-edge for up to a year or more while our bills totalling tens of thousands of pounds are processed and (eventually) settled.

The effect of the Lord Chancellor's short arms and deep pockets is that already dangerously inadequate access by the defence to competent forensic science advice is shrinking. This should be especially worrying in the wake of a number of recent notable cases in which, on closer scrutiny, the prosecution's scientific evidence was found wanting.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer could make a significant contribution to the "significant" fresh, populist, caring image, and to even-handedness in the criminal justice system as well, if he were to point the Office of Fair Trading towards the government's own dealing with small businesses.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL STOCKDALE,
Forensic Access,
Crosslakes House, Priory Road,
Newbury, Berkshire,
October 25.

Not a sausage

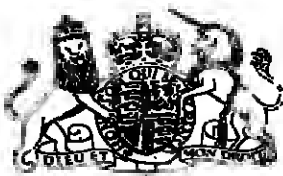
From Mr J. B. Sturton

Sir, In Bedford is produced a pungently delicious cotchinese sausage, much of which is exported to Italy. The ingredients listed on a pack of three are: "Pork, saltpetre, salt, spices, wine, dextrose, preservative (E221), antioxidant (E300), sodium citrate, not less than 100% meat".

I heard the manufacturers list out of 10 for enterprise and 21 out of 20 for flavour. But what do they score for arithmetic?

Yours sincerely,
J. B. STURTON,
2 Duck End Lane,
Biddenham, Bedford.

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Sports letters, page 38



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 30: The Queen today opened the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge over the River Thames at the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis) and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Kent (the Right Hon. Robin Leigh-Pemberton). Having unveiled a monument to name the bridge, and taken part in the Opening Ceremony, the Queen honoured the Chairman of Dartford River Crossing Limited (the Lord Rockley) with her presence at lunch.

Mrs John Dugdale, Mr Robin Janvin, Mr Charles Anson and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF were in attendance.

The Duchess of York this evening attended a Gala Evening presenting Linda Cierach's autumn Couture Collection at Syon House, Isleworth, in aid of Angels International.

Mrs Harry Cotterell was in attendance.

This morning The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended a National Olympic Committee Meeting, a Luncheon and the Annual General Meeting at the Café Royal, Regent Street, and was received by the Chairman of the British Olympic Association (Sir Arthur Gold, KT).

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
October 30: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Reception

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open Parliament at 11.30. The Princess and Princess of Wales and Princess Margaret will also attend.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will open the new extension to the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, at 2.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend a fundraising reception at Trinity House, Tower Hill, EC3, at 6.15 organised by ladies of the London Flying Angel Committee, and as Upper Warden of the Loriners' Company, will attend the Loriners' charity ball at Whitbread Brewery, Chiswell Street, at 8.15.

Princess Margaret will attend a gala performance of *The Four Feathers* at the NPT at 7.50 in aid of the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare and the National Advertising Benevolent Society.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the

given by the National Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends at 1 Carlton Gardens.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preson and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 30: The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this morning from Canada.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Mr Peter Westmacott, Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, Mr Richard Arbiter and Surgeon-Captain Tony Daborn, RN were in attendance.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel in Chief, King's Own Scottish Borderers, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Darnell on relinquishing the appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel John Kirkwood on assuming the appointment.

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Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

Eve of Session

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception held yesterday at 10 Downing Street on the eve of the Opening of Parliament.

Carlton Club/United and Cecil Club
The Prime Minister, accompanied by Mrs Major, was the principal guest at a reception held last night at the Carlton Club on the eve of the Opening of Parliament. Viscount Whitelaw, CH, Chairman of the Carlton Club, and Sir Marcus

Forthcoming marriages

Mr O. Brosh and Miss M.J. Teeman
The engagement is announced between Oded, son of the late Arish and Shoshanna Brosh, of Haifa, and Miriam, daughter of Ronald and Shirley Teeman, of Leeds.

Mr R.F. Daskwood and Miss M.M.G. Pichas
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Daskwood, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, and Martine, younger daughter of M Marc Pichas, of Les Sables d'Olonne, France, and Mme Jeanne Pichon, of La Napoule, France.

Mr L.A. Della-Porta and Miss D.A. Wyndham-Lewis
The engagement is announced between Louis, second son of Mr Clifford Della-Porta, of Oadby, Leicester, and Miss Della-Porta, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Wyndham-Lewis, of Holmer Green, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.N.G. Fox and Miss C.C. Robinson
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Basil Fox, of Pembroke Gardens, London, W8, and Camilla, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Robinson, of Great Chesterford, Essex.

Mr J.C. Hearn and Miss J.M. Cole
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of the late Major John Hearn, MC, and of Mrs Anthony Tabor and stepson of Mr Anthony Tabor, of Chetworth, Dorset, and Johanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Cole, of Westport, Connecticut.

Mr G.D.A. Ropner and Miss A.F. Coates
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 26, 1991, at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Wadhurst, of Mr Guy David Ropner, eldest son of Mr David Ropner and Mrs Nigel Forbes Adam, to Miss Annabel Coates, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Coates, of Great Shoemiths Farm, Wadhurst, East Sussex. The Rev Timothy Forbes Adam officiated, assisted by the Rev Michael Insh.

The bride, who was given in

marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Rebecca Coates, Eloise and Isabelle Goebel, William Gray, Ben Barran and Nicholas Ropner. Mr Charles Ropner was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in South Africa.

Mr R. Mackinnon and Mrs V. Onslow
The marriage took place on Tuesday, October 15, of Mr Robert Mackinnon and Mrs Veronica Onslow (née Micalife).

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OBITUARIES

General Sir Nigel Poett, KCB, DSO and bar, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Far East Land Forces from 1961 to 1963, died on October 29 aged 84. He was born on August 20, 1907.

NIGEL Poett will be remembered, first, as the commander of the 5th Parachute Brigade, which took the famous "Pegasus" bridge in Normandy during the early hours of D-Day; secondly, as the director of military operations in the War Office during the Suez crisis in 1956; and thirdly, as the army commander in the Far East during the Azahani rebellion in Brunei and the subsequent confrontation with Indonesia in the early 1960s.

Joseph Howard Nigel Poett was the son of Major-General J. H. Poett, CB, CMG, CBE of Filleigh House, Bath, and Julia Baldwin, nee Caswell, of Rhode Island, USA. He was educated at Downside and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Durham Light Infantry in 1927.

He spent the first 10 years of his long army career with his battalion in Egypt, on the North-West Frontier of India and in the Sudan. He went to France in 1939 as CSO 2 of the 2nd Division, and after Dunkirk was promoted lieutenant-colonel as a CSO 1 in the War Office. He commanded the 11th Battalion of his regiment in 1942-43, before volunteering to join the recently formed parachute force, in which he was given command of the 5th Parachute Brigade for the invasion of Normandy.

Poett was ideally cast in this role: a tall, physically strong and immensely fit man with a dominating personality, he always led from the front. He was painstaking in his planning and convinced of his own invincibility, but he could be stubborn and dogmatic at times. Nevertheless, he had the invaluable knack of being at the right place at the right time to "read" the battle correctly at first hand.

He was intensely interested in the well-being and survival of his men, which endeared him to them but



sometimes infuriated them when he would appear among their slit trenches oblivious to his own safety and to the occupants' urgent wish not to draw fire unnecessarily. Throughout his military career and afterwards, he never lost the innate courtesy and consideration with which he treated all ranks. His brigade's glider and parachute landings astride the Orne and Caen Canal bridges to protect the left flank of the Allied beachhead in Normandy were some of the most

successful operations on D-Day. He himself jumped with the advanced elements of the brigade. By dawn he was able to report to his divisional commander, Major-General Richard Gale (later General Sir Richard), GOC 6th Airborne Division, that his men had captured the bridges intact and all his other objectives were secure.

For the next two months his brigade doggedly held on to their sector of the 6th Airborne Division's perimeter in severe fighting and

suffered many casualties. Subsequently he led it in the breakout to the Seine and in the advance into Belgium and Holland. Withdrawn to England with his division for retraining for further airborne operations that autumn, he dropped again with his brigade during the crossing of the Rhine in the spring of 1945 and led it on across north-west Germany to the Baltic coast. When the war ended in Europe, he and his brigade were sent out to the Far East where they took part in the reoccupation of the Dutch East Indies. For his stalwart leadership in these highly successful operations, he was awarded the DSO and bar and the American Silver Star.

As one of the stronger, more experienced personalities of the post-war army, Poett was soon developing military policy as director of plans at the War Office (1946-48), as deputy commander of the British Military Mission to Greece (1949); as chief of staff, Far East at the height of the Malaya campaign (1950-52); and as commander 3rd Division in the Suez Canal Zone when Nasser seized power in Egypt (1952-54). He was promoted major-general in 1951.

In 1954 he became director of military operations at the War Office where he had to bear the cross of the political misjudgments and vacillations of the Eden government during the Suez crisis of 1956. In his later years he admitted that the military were not entirely without blame for the mistaken assumption that the Egyptian tanks and aircraft would be manned by Eastern Bloc "volunteers". This over-estimate of Nasser's military capability resulted in the cumbersome Normandy-style landing at Port Said. He accepted in retrospect that only quick, decisive military action, using parachute and air mobile forces, could have neutralised world opinion and inhibited American financial sanctions.

The military lessons of Suez had been learned by the time Poett became C-in-C Far East Land Forces in 1961 after being the commandant of the Staff College, Camberley (1957-58), and GOC-10

C Southern Command (1958-61). Azahari's revolt in Brunei was crushed by rapid airborne intervention which he directed from Singapore, but the subsequent "confrontation" with Indonesia in the jungles of Borneo was still far from resolved when Poett returned from the army at the end of his tenure as GOC-in-C in 1963.

When he left the army, he joined the British Productivity Council and served as its director until 1971. He also gave generously of his time, working with his wife, in helping the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families Association in the south west of England.

In 1978 he accepted the chairmanship of the newly created Airborne Assault Normandy Trust, set up to record and tell the history, in France, of the 6th Airborne Division. It was an ideal task for him: he loved France, spoke fluent French and had a great respect for the French way of life, as well as possessing first hand knowledge of the operations and boundless enthusiasm for the project. He never lost interest in perfecting the telling of the story, nor in the welfare of the division's veterans.

On General Gale's death in 1981 he donned the mantle of doyen of the Airborne community, and each year led the Airborne Forces Security Fund Pilgrimages to Normandy. Shortly before he died he was appointed a chevalier of the Légion d'honneur in recognition of his work in cementing Anglo-French relations.

He married Julia, daughter of E. J. Herrick of Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, in 1937. Their marriage was a great partnership, in which she "followed the drum", giving him unstinting support throughout his career. They had two sons and one daughter. His family survive him.

In our obituary of Sir Mark Henniker (October 22) we stated he served in the 43rd Welsh Division. This should have read 43rd Wessex Division.

SIR CYRIL BLACK



Sir Cyril Black, former Conservative MP, property magnate and campaigner against the permissive society, died on October 29 aged 89. He was born on April 8, 1902.

SIR Cyril Black was parliament's outstanding crusader against the permissive society. He was a knight who spent much of his life tilting at windmills - including at one point the Windmill Theatre itself, then famous for its nude showgirls. Sir Cyril was against nudity on the stage, X-rated films in the cinema and what he regarded as indecency in books. He was a non-smoking teetotaler who fought with absolute conviction and almost total lack of success against drinking, gambling and betting. He was in favour of Sunday observance, the Boys Brigade and the Band of Hope. He was a survivor of the once prominent school of Tory nonconformists who were rooted in their churches and confident of their cause. To many he appeared as a simple killjoy, to others as a would-be censor of the arts, but to his supporters he was

their champion who spent 20 years in parliament attempting to arrest the country's moral decline.

Sir Cyril, who was one of the richest men in the Commons, was educated at King's College School, Wimbledon. His father, a successful figure in the property world, left him half a million pounds when he died in 1951 but by that time Black hardly needed the money. He had become a chartered surveyor on leaving school and gravitated from his practice into real estate. He was believed to have made his first million before he was 40. At his peak he was a director of more than 50 companies and his chairmanships included the Eagle Star Insurance Company and, typically, the Temperance Permanent Building Society.

He became MP for Wimbledon in 1950 with a majority of more than 20,000 and though this majority went down in later elections when a redistribution reduced the electorate he held the seat with ease throughout his Commons career. He had earlier made his name in local government.

He was a member of Wimbledon Borough Council from 1942 to 1965 and its mayor in 1945-46; a member of Merton Borough Council from 1965 to 1978 and mayor in 1965-66; and a member of Surrey County Council from 1943 to 1965 and its chairman in 1956-59. In the House he started immediately on his campaign for temperance. He also opposed the Divorce Reform Bill and Rah Butler's plan to relax the licensing laws. He was particularly active against the Licensing (Alcohol) Bill of 1956 which allowed aircraft passengers flying to and from Britain to buy alcohol at any time. He advocated restoration of the birch and harsher prison conditions. Black was an early advocate of a tougher immigration policy but when he was described as a racist in 1968 by the Independent Labour Party paper, *The Socialist Leader*, he sued for libel and was awarded substantial damages. He attacked the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, saying it should be withdrawn at once but went further after the appearance of Hubert Selby's *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. His successful private prosecution in a London Magistrates' Court under the seizure procedure forced a reluctant Director of Public Prosecutions to proceed against the publishers who eventually won an appeal against conviction for publishing an obscene article. The affair cost him £2,000 - a small sum to Black - and he said afterwards: "I would do it again if necessary. Bad books should not be published."

In addition to his attacks on the permissive society Black also concentrated on housing and town planning, and his professional knowledge was acknowledged on both sides of the House. He was also one of the strongest supporters in the 1950s of the Conservative government's plans for commercial television. Although few even on his own side sympathised with his more extreme opinions his sincerity was generally appreciated. Nobody doubted him when he said that his whole approach to life was based on his religious faith.

Black was a man of amazing energy. His business activities alone would have been too much for most people. He managed to combine these with a local government career which continued after he became a busy MP while at the time he was engaged on a large amount of voluntary work. He was a Baptist lay preacher, a member of the Baptist Union Council and its one-time president and a member of the Free Church Federal Council. He was a governor of his old school,

King's College, and of a number of other schools in the area. He was a member of the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and an honorary treasurer of both the Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Brigade.

After he left the House in 1970 he remained a public figure, writing letters to newspapers and never deviating from his beliefs. He advocated the withdrawal of British churches from the World Council of Churches because he disagreed with the council's policies and he warned ceaselessly of the moral dangers facing Britain as a result of the spread of vice and easier means of divorce and abortion. In 1981 there might have been a conflict of interest for some men when a group of hotels, founded by his family and run throughout its history without selling alcohol, applied in the changing circumstances of the times for licences to sell liquor. But for Sir Cyril there was no conflict. He promptly resigned from the board and sold his shares. He leaves a widow, Joyce, two daughters and a son.

Piping

Lament for the champion

By ANGUS NICOL

TO BE invited to compete in the Glenfiddich Championship is an honour in itself and a mark of those achievements which have led to the invitation. To win a prize in the championship is a major achievement.

The championship is in two parts. The first is for cool moor, the great music. Each of the ten contestants is required to play one piobaireachd out of a list of ten which he has previously submitted. The judges of this part of the championship were John D. Burgess, William MacDonald, and Malcolm MacRae. In the second part, the cool bag, each piper plays a set of march, strathspey, and reel, having offered a list of six of each. The judges were James MacNeill, and Major John Allan.

The Glenfiddich champion for 1991 is Sergeant Alastair Gillies, of the Queen's Own Highlanders. In the piobaireachd section he played Donald MacRae's *MacRae's Lament for Donald Diughal MacKinnon*. That performance won Sergeant Gillies second prize for piobaireachd. In the

cool bag section, he played *The Ross-shire Volunteers*, *Cabar Feadh*, and *Miss Proud*, and emerged the clear winner of the first prize and the Redfern Glass Trophy.

Second in the championship came Murray Henderson, who took third prize for piobaireachd with *The Earl of Ross's March*, a tune which harks back to the fifteenth century and the last years of the Lordship of the Isles. Murray Henderson also came third in the cool bag section, playing *Major Mounson of Cloakmantushal*, *Athole Gunners*, and *Loch Corran*. The winner of the piobaireachd was Roderick MacLeod, with an excellent performance of *Donald Gruiniosh's March*, a tune of great complexity, which won him the Highland Society of London's Trophy. This by itself was enough to win also the third prize overall in the championship. Michael Cusack, from the United States, won second prize for cool bag, playing *South Hall*, *Arnisist Castle*, and *John Morrison of Assyria House*. It is fast, and appropriately, becoming a tradition that one

of the competitors should play *Craigalachie*, the Grants' gathering tune. This year the lot fell to William MacCallum, who took fourth prize with it. He also won fifth prize for cool bag. Fifth prize for piobaireachd was taken by James MacGillivray, with the unusual tune which is called *The Vauling in English*, and *A Bhoich* (Nonsense) in Gaelic. James MacGillivray also won fourth prize for cool bag.

The championship took place, as every year, in the magnificent Hall of Blair Castle, seat of the Duke of Atholl, who presented the prizes. Every year since 1985, William Grant and Sons, the founders of the championship, have presented a silver medal to a person who has, over the years, given distinguished services to piping. Seumas MacNeill, the fear-an-riagha for the occasion, announced this year's award to James Campbell of Kiberry. It would be difficult to think of a more deserving recipient; he is the leading authority on piobaireachd and was one of those who founded the Piobaireachd Society, among many other distinctions.

Birthdays today

Miss Barbara Bel Geddes, actress, 69; Mr Eddie Charlton, snooker player, 62; Mr Michael Collins, astronaut, 61; Mr Hugh Cruttwell, former principal, RADA, 73; Viscount Falkland, 72; Dr Ian Field, secretary, BMA, 58; Mr Dick Francis, former jockey and author, 71; Mr E.J.H. Gould, headmaster, Felsted School, Essex, 48; Mr John Gunter, theatrical designer, 53; Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, 70; Mr Alastair Hetherington, journalist, 72; Mr H.R.F. Keating, author, 65; Mr Barrie Keeffe, dramatist, 46; Mr Michael Kitchen, actor, 43; Mrs Helen Lessore, painter, 84; Mrs John Lowe, jockey, 41; Professor R.F. Mather, consultant physician, 67; Mr Kevin Mooney, jockey, 37; Mr Malise Nicolson, former president, General Council of British Shipping, 70; Sir Jeremy Rowe, chairman, Occupational Pensions Board, 63; Sir James Savile, broadcaster, 65; Sir Derek Thomas, diplomat, 62; Professor John Vallance-Owen, physician, 71; Viscount Waverley, 42; Lady Wilcox, chairman, National Consumer Council, 52.

Council of Christians and Jews

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a service held last night in the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Bevis Marks, EC3, to mark the beginning of the golden jubilee year of the Council of Christians and Jews and the opening of the City branch of the council. The Chief Rabbi officiated and Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy gave an address. Among those present were: The Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Austria, Bulgaria and Luxembourg; the Archbishop of Southwold; the Bishop of London; the Bishop of Exeter; the Bishop of the Free Church Federal Council; the Bishop of the Free Church of Scotland; the Bishop of the Free Church of Norway; the Bishop of the Free Church of Sweden; the Bishop of the Free Church of Denmark; the Bishop of the Free Church of Finland; the Bishop of the Free Church of Iceland; the Bishop of the Free Church of the Netherlands; the Bishop of the Free Church of Belgium; the Bishop of the Free Church of France; the Bishop of the Free Church of Germany; the Bishop of the Free Church of Italy; the Bishop of the Free Church of Spain; the Bishop of the Free Church of Portugal; the Bishop of the Free Church of Greece; the Bishop of the Free Church of Turkey; the Bishop of the Free Church of Cyprus; the Bishop of the Free Church of Malta; the Bishop of the Free Church of Gibraltar; the Bishop of the Free Church of the Channel Islands; 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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily 8.25 Schools**
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme.** An analysis of the Queen's speech at this morning's State Opening of Parliament
- 12.30 **Business Daily 1.00 Sesame Street.** With guest Tim Robbins
- 2.00 **The Mary Whiteford Story.** The life of the 'Homes' Returns' Murray
- 2.30 **Film: The Glass Mountain (1949, b/w).** Romantic drama starring Michael Denison as a composer who, haunted by memories of the world war, is inspired to create a new symphony
- 4.20 **Peta Smith Specialises: Sure Cures (1946, b/w).** Academy award-nominated short, examining old-fashioned home remedies
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-one.** William G. Stewart hosts the quick-fire quiz (6)
- 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show: How To Protect Yourself Against an AIDS Epidemic**
- 5.55 **Willie the Wisp.** Cartoon adventures of a self-declared programme
- 6.00 **The Time Tunnel.** American 1960s science fiction series about two scientists trapped in the fourth dimension
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News.** (Teletext) Weather 7.5C Comment
- 8.00 **Matters of Taste: In Praise of Slow Food.** Janos Robinson savours the merits of leisurely dining. A sacrifice that is slowly being overturned by convenience food (Teletext)



0.00 Critical Eye: Fecal Bacteriatry?
 c) CHOICE: In the week in which we have heard that thousands a) Vietnamese come to Hong Kong to be repatriated on the grounds that they are political refugees rather than political refugees, comes this disturbing report on the over-crowded detention centres where they have been held to date. The programme concentrates on the largest of these, Whitehall, which contains about 24,000 people, known not by name but by number. As one human rights lawyer observes: "It looks at first glance like a concentration camp with a few more people than a concentration camp." All this is our responsibility since Hong Kong is still a British colony, and the Itm could have done with a meaty interview with a government official. As it is we hear only from shocked members of the legal profession and the dismayed detainees themselves. There is much bitterness. As one Vietnamese complains: "It we are not accepted as refugees then to me the world has nothing good

Living in equator: The tragic plight of the boat people (9.00pm)

9.00 Critical Eye: Final Betrayal?
● CHOICE: In the week in which we have heard that thousands of Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong are to be repatriated on the grounds that they are economic migrants rather than political refugees, this disturbing report on the over-crowded detention centres where they have been held to date. The programme concentrates on the largest of these, Whitehouse, which contains about 24,000 people, known not by name but by number. As one unnamed lawyer says, "I look at the boat people, I see a concentration camp and that impression doesn't go away." All this is our responsibility since Hong Kong is still a British colony, and the film could have done with a meaty interview with a government official. As it is we hear only from shocked members of the legal profession and the dismayed detainees themselves. There is some bitterness. As one Vietnamese complains: "If we are not repatriated as fugitives then to me the world has nothing good to offer." (Teletext)

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (2001) Comedy set behind the scenes of a television newsroom (5)

10.30 Fear in the Dark
● CHOICE: An entertaining career through the history of horror films and their presentation. Apparently some cinema seats in the late 1950s were wired to give you a mild electric shock when you watched *The Thing*. It doesn't seem long ago that Christopher Lee was bleating about changing his image, but here he is again, everyone's favourite vampire, narrating this collection of clips and interviews with all the important horror directors, William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*) and Wes Craven (*Nightmare on Elm Street*) among them. There are theories from the obligatory psychologist, plus a bit of the different ways in which the movies try to shock you, from sharks to serial killers – and every time things threaten to get pretentious, some greasy-faced young pops up to tell us how he enjoys the gore per se. One word of warning, you may want to hide behind the sofa towards the end when the clips get more revealing. (Teletext) (5)

11.30 Fight: The Hunger (1983) In the first of tonight's Halloween double, vampire lovers David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve take a bite out of the modern-day vampire. As they search for fresh blood to retain their eternal youth, directed by Tony Scott.

12.00am Film: The Vampire Bat (1933, b/w). Primitive low-budget chiller starring Melvyn Douglas, on the trail of mad scientist Lionel Atwill, whom he suspects is involved in the demise of a number of German townstolk. Fay Wray is stay to escape as the screaming heroine. Directed by Frank R. Strayer. Ends at 2.30

Heroes 8.30 *Home's Lucy*
 Laugh 10.30 *Barney Miller* 1
 Hall 11.30 *Laugh-in*

SKY SPORTS

- **Via the Astra and Motorpoint satellites.**
- 8.30 America 7.30 Netherlands 7.30 Tennis
- 8.30 Wheelies 9.00 Americas 9.30 American Sports
- 9.30 Americas 10.30 Americas 11.00 WHF Wrestling Challenge 12.00 Bundesliga
- 2.00pm NFL American Football 4.00 Tennis
- 5.00 Tennis 6.00 European League 7.00 Red Line 8.00 Computer World 10.00 Today 11.00 European League 12.00 Tennis Championships

EUROSPORT

- **Via the Astra satellite.**
- 11.00am Live Tennis Parts Open 5.00pm Tennis World Sport 8.00 Motorpoint News 8.30am Live Tennis Parts Open 10.00 Tennis 7.30 Live Tennis Parts Open 10.30 Football Europeans 11.30 Eurosport News

7.00am Eurobets 7.30 Ladies Pro Bowlers 8.30 World Cup Bowling 8.00 Sport de France 9.30 Eurobets 10.00 Rugby World Cup 11.00 Motorpoint Pro Box 1.00pm FIA World Rally Championships 2.00pm FIA World Rally Championships 3.00pm FIA World Rally Championships 4.00 NBA Basketball 5.00 Fight Night at the Forum 6.00 Argentina Soccer 7.00 TruckSport 8.00 Indy Red Bull 9.00 Football Expanded 10.30 Show Jumping 11.30 Ladies Pro Bowlers

LIFESTYLE

- **Via the Astra satellite.**
- 10.00am American Gameshow 10.50 Coffee Break 11.00 American Gameshow 11.25 Week with Jim 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Style File 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.50 The Rich and Famous 2.00 Lifestyle 2.30 Cyst Cell Flowers's Garden 2.55 Part 3.50 Tenacious 4.00 WHRF in the City 4.30 American Gameshow 5.00 Lifestyle of the Rich and Famous 6.00 Season Shopping Programme

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• THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF LOCAL SERVICES •

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Labour also made plain it had no enthusiasm for the clause in the draft ECU treaty giving Britain the opportunity to opt out of a single currency. No firm timetable was included for introducing the currency.

Compromise plea, page 10

Compromise plea, page 10

Motorcyclists, again catching public attention through this week's International Motor Cycle Show, are always being blamed for the toll of death and injury on Britain's roads. Yet a study has shown that car drivers are at fault in half the accidents in which motorcyclists are involved, and restrictions imposed on new riders may have contributed to the fall in the number of motorcycle accidents. A bill before Parliament would also make new riders undergo training, but no such demands are made of young car drivers.

Kevin Eason argues in *The Times* tomorrow for constraints on "boy racers" who buy high-performance cars

By ALAN HAMILTON

The Queen spoke of a remarkable landmark, a most important addition to the nation's transport network, and could not resist a reference to "familiar radio announcements about the length of the tailback at the Dartford tunnel".

Shortly after midday, the Queen pressed a button. Nothing much happened at first. Then a stream of red, blue and yellow balloons were seen to rise from the



The Queen was led to the riverside to watch a flypast of RAF Tornados, but only saw a small passenger aircraft passing through the

When, several minutes later, the Queen retired to lunch with people who had been involved in completing the project on time after just over three years and within budget, the bridge was already a solid but mobile

An hour later, the scene of the northbound traffic, which now uses all four tunnel lanes, was depressingly familiar, with an almost static queue of traffic tailing back. The old path

beneath the tides was as unharmonious as ever. AA Roadwatch said a half-mile tailback of traffic built up in both directions during last night's rush hour, about the same as usual at the old Dartford tunnel. A spokeswoman attributed the jams partly to the extra number of motorists drawn to the bridge on its opening day.

By TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

—STAIN: USE OF loggersheads

Senior employment department sources adopted an even sharper tone, saying that since Britain was not alone in its objections to the two directives, Mrs Papandreu could

lives, Mrs Papandreu would yet "come a cropper" in the council of ministers. "Commissioner Papandreu should not take the decisions of the other members of the community for granted," said one Whitehall aide. "She should also be careful not to pose as a better defender of the interests of the workers of the UK than the government of the UK, which has been elected by the people of the UK. She shouldn't assume that just because she brings the directives forward on a majority voting basis, she can steamroller any opposition."

However, Labour argued that by attacking the commission and Mrs Papandreu, ministers were denying Britain a voice in shaping the social action programme. Tony Blair, the Opposition's chief employment spokesman, said that it was futile to carry on pretending that the social charter was not happening.

A 28x28 crossword puzzle grid. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers 1 through 28 are placed in the starting squares of the words, indicating the row and column for each word's beginning. The numbers are distributed as follows: 1 (1,1), 2 (1,2), 3 (1,3), 4 (1,4), 5 (1,5), 6 (1,6), 7 (1,7), 8 (1,8), 9 (2,1), 10 (2,5), 11 (3,1), 12 (3,4), 13 (4,1), 14 (4,2), 15 (4,7), 16 (4,8), 17 (4,9), 18 (4,10), 19 (5,1), 20 (5,5), 21 (5,6), 22 (5,7), 23 (6,1), 24 (6,9), 25 (6,10), 26 (7,1), 27 (7,5), 28 (8,1), 29 (8,4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

бу і ширі почати

ZABETA
 a. A wild gypsy whirling dance
 b. A priest's little tonsure
 c. A stated tariff

TARAND
 a. A type of rough muslin
 b. A night watchman
 c. A reindeer-chameleón

SAMBUCA
 a. Aniseed brandy
 b. An ancient harp
 c. Having a generous mouth

NACARAT
 a. Baccarat without betting
 b. Fool's gold
 c. A bright orange-red

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WEATHER

WEATHER Heavy rain reaching the extreme south-east by this morning will linger throughout the day. Elsewhere clearer showery weather will follow. A wet and windy night for Scotland and Northern Ireland followed today by clearer weather in all but north-eastermost areas of Scotland. Temperatures unchanged. Outlook: staying very unsettled and windy.

ABRGAD

AROUND BOSTON

[illegible]

Figures are latest available

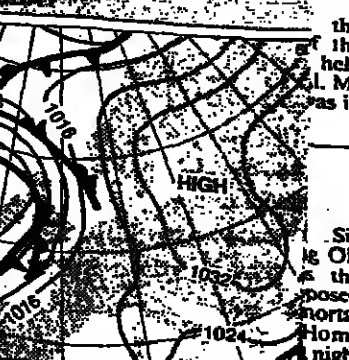
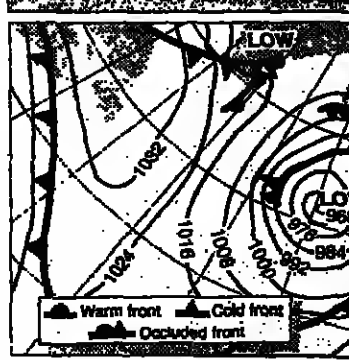
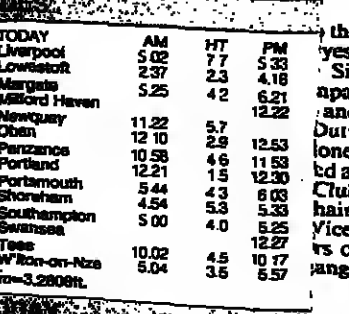
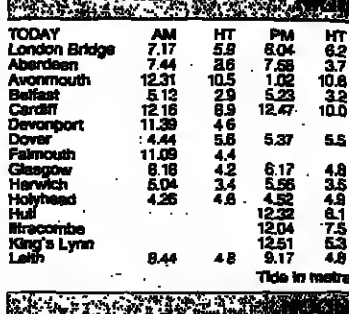
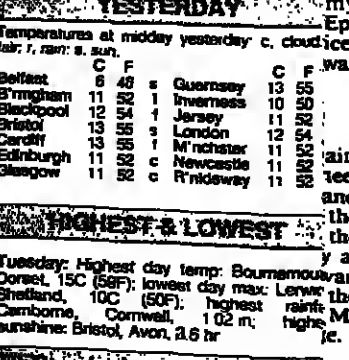
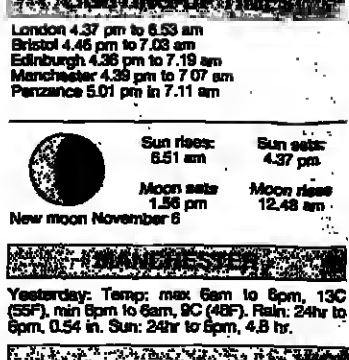
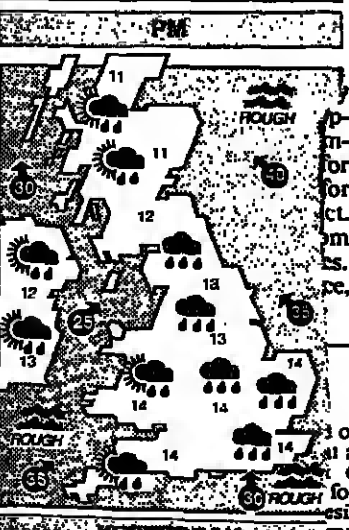
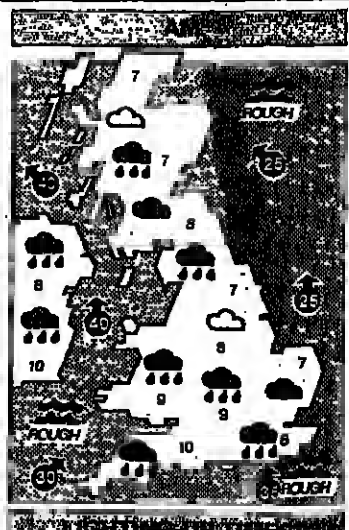
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Buys
227

Austria Schg	21.50	20.00	Dorset/Harles & IOW	703	
Belgium Fr	62.75	38.75	Devon & Cornwall	704	
Denmark Kr	1.82	1.50	Wiltts/Glouce Area Sorns	705	
France Fr	11.82	7.02	Wiltts/Glouce Area Chon	706	
France Fr	10.40	6.70	Wiltts/Glouce Area Sorns	707	
Germany Dm	3.045	2.845	Norfolk Suffolk Cambs	708	
Greece Dr	330.00	318.00	Norfolk & Sth Glam & Gwent	709	
Hong Kong S	14.00	12.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	710	
Ireland Pl	1.137	0.97	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	711	
Italy L	243.00	213.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	712	
Japan Yen	238.00	225.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	713	
Netherlands Gld	3.43	3.21	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	714	
Norway L	1.18	1.03	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	715	
Portugal Esc	281.00	243.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	716	
South Africa Rd	1.15	1.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	717	
Spain Ps	151.00	147.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	718	
Sweden Kr	6.00	5.40	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	719	
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.09	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	720	
Turkey Lira	670.00	790.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	721	
USA S	1.285	1.170	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	722	
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNR	40.00	Strpps/Henlids & Wores	723	
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as rates for Barclays Bank PLC Different rates apply to travellers cheques					
N W Scotland					724
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders					725
Central Scotland					726
Glasgow & E Highlands					727
N W Scotland					728

GLASGOW A. 7-
BY SEA

Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12 (54F), min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F) Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.35 in, Sun 24hr to 6pm, 3.7 in.



You were happy to spend a fortune advertising on TV. Then you had to go and read this.

NO-ONE can deny that television advertising is expensive. The reason advertisers are willing to pay up is because they've been told time and time again - and have had no reason to doubt - that television is a good investment.

Given the huge audiences and the 'intrusive' nature of the medium, for those who can afford it there is no real alternative.

We may think of this as the accepted wisdom. In fact it's the accepted folly.

The figures that make the case for television advertising are based on a method of research which records the times at which viewers turn their sets on, change channels and switch off.

There is also a 'people meter' that records who is in the room, provided they remember to press the button.

This method asks us to make a rather important assumption.

That when people are in a room with the TV set switched-on, they are actually watching.

Everyday experience, common sense and a little elementary sleuthing will show us that this assumption can't be entirely accurate.

Just how wildly inaccurate has recently been demonstrated by research psychologist Dr. Peter Collett, who used the unassailable method of videoing people watching commercials by hiding a camera in their TV sets.

His findings make uncomfortable reading for

anyone who spends large sums on television advertising. Let's assume that you 'invest' £10 million. Dr. Collett saw (literally) that 20% of commercials played to empty rooms. Bang goes £2 million.

The videotapes also revealed that advertising breaks were the cue for people to escape the commercials.

Some people left the room. Others used their remote-control 'zappers' to sample the action on other channels.

As a result, another 10% of commercials (and £1 million of your budget) were lost.

Only 70% of commercials had any audience at all. But the tapes show people talking, reading, sleeping. Some, who evidently forgot they were being filmed, even got down to some serious canoodling.

Half the time, no-one was actually watching the TV set.

In effect, only one third of all commercials had the viewers' attention. £7 million of your £10 million was totally wasted.

Whichever way you look at it, television advertising is less than half as effective as you thought it was. Or more than twice as expensive.

In publishing this newspaper advertisement, we do not wish to imply that your television

advertising budget is wasted. Just two thirds of it.

Of course we're not suggesting that you stop using television, only that you stop to think about what other, powerful options are available. Newspapers, for example.

You cannot read a newspaper whilst behaving as if it isn't there.

If you put down your newspaper to make a cup of tea, the ads will still be there when you come back. (It is probably impossible to canoodle while reading a newspaper, but if Dr. Collett's research teaches us anything, it is not to be dogmatic.)

Some of the most famous campaigns in advertising history have been conducted in newspapers. We've already featured several of them on these pages. This advertisement contains two more examples.

Newspaper advertisements can be intrusive, powerful and compelling.

You've spent three minutes on this ad already and read every word so far. How much would it cost you to hold someone's attention on TV for three minutes? (Don't forget that TV is more than twice as expensive as you thought it was.)

If you'd like more information, please telephone 071-433 1500.



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Grampian bid for Macarthy hindered

By OUR CITY STAFF

GRAMPIAN Holdings suffered a setback when John Govett, the fund manager, said it would not accept the Scottish conglomerate's takeover bid for Macarthy in respect of its 18.26 per cent shareholding.

Bill Hughes, chairman of Grampian, said he remained confident that Grampian would claim control of Macarthy, the pharmaceuticals retailer and manufacturer, when the all-share offer closes tomorrow.

However, analysts believe other financial institutions may choose to follow John Govett's lead in deciding to await the outcome of a monopolies commission investigation into rival offers by Unichem, the wholesaler, and Lloyds Chemists, which has said it will not accept the offer in respect of its 9.9 per cent holding.

These offers lapsed after being referred by the Office of Fair Trading and a decision by the commission is expected in mid-January. Both companies have expressed their intention to bid again if regulatory approval is forthcoming.

Macarthy, which has fiercely opposed Grampian's offer of 147 new shares for every 100 Macarthy shares, has recommended shareholders to support Lloyds, Algeo Lloyd, chairman and chief executive of Lloyds, said yesterday: "I strongly believe that shareholders should not accept the Grampian offer but should wait for Lloyds to receive clearance from the MMC when it will be in a position to rebid."

Shares in Macarthy fell 3p to 268p yesterday while Grampian shares rose 5p to 199p, appearing to indicate that dealers expect the offer to fail.

Macarthy and Schroders, its financial advisers, issued a statement claiming that Grampian had not received the necessary approval from existing preference shareholders to issue new preference shares as consideration to Macarthy shareholders. Grampian said that although it did not agree with the claim, it was seeking the opinion of counsel on the matter.

Despite Mr Lloyd's assertion that his company will bid again, Grampian has raised doubts about the certainty of new offers early next year.

Mr Hughes has given a warning that even if the monopolies commission clears the way for another bid, conditions may be attached, removing much of the commercial logic of a takeover. He has also highlighted the fact that Macarthy failed to publish any financial information in its final defence even though the document was published after its financial year-end of September 30.

Invergordon defeats W&M takeover bid as offer lapses

By MARTIN BARROW

INVERGORDON Distillers has defeated a £350 million hostile bid by Whyte & Mackay, the American Brands subsidiary.

The 275p-a-share cash offer lapsed 5000 after 1 pm yesterday when Whyte & Mackay disclosed that it had secured acceptances in respect of only 42.4 per cent of its target.

Chris Greig, managing director of Invergordon, described the outcome as "the sweetest victory. It has been a long 12 weeks and a day."

However, the battle between the two sides remains unresolved, with Whyte & Mackay expected to remain Invergordon's largest single shareholder, speaking for 39.1 per cent of the equity.

Acceptances for the offer, which was increased from an initial 225p, were received in respect of an additional 3.3 per cent.

Mr Greig said: "We have to face the fact that there is a new dynamic in the business, with a substantial minority shareholder. They are customers of ours and there has got to be a good relationship. After all, this is the very nature of the Scotch whisky industry."

Michael Luno, the chairman and chief executive of Whyte & Mackay, said: "The final outcome was always expected to be close. We are delighted to be the largest shareholder by far and we look forward to working with Invergordon."

Mr Luno said that future plans and strategy would be

considered in detail in the coming weeks. Options include the appointment of representatives on the Invergordon board or the resumption of merger talks that took place on a tentative basis before the original hostile bid.

Whyte & Mackay will be free to launch a new bid after 12 months or may increase its shareholding in Invergordon by up to 2 per cent a year until it achieves overall control.

Invergordon shares held steady at 266p yesterday, up 1p, after the offer lapsed. Analysts are divided about the eventual market value of the shares after the bid although liquidity in the stock will be thin, with virtually all the shares held in large blocks by Whyte & Mackay and institutional investors.

Funds associated with Robert Fleming, Invergordon's long-serving financial adviser, played a key role in the defence by rejecting the offer in respect of 15 per cent of the company. Norwich Union and Prudential, which together spoke for more than 16 per cent, also remained loyal to the board. Invergordon directors spoke for 5.5 per cent.

During the bid, some shareholders expressed dismay that Invergordon and Whyte & Mackay had been unable to reach agreement on the terms of a merger. The companies' only have extensive trading links but also appear to share several corporate aims.



"The sweetest victory": Chris Greig of Invergordon

Stakis top job filled after four months

By MARTIN WALLER

STAKIS, the battered Scottish hotels and healthcare group, has found a new chief executive four months after the departure of Andros Stakis, son of Sir Leo Stakis, the founder, at the instigation of Sir Lewis Robertson, the new chairman.

David Michels, deputy chairman and managing director of Hilton UK, the British hotels side of Ladbroke Group, takes up the vacancy on December 16.

Sir Lewis, a noted company doctor, was appointed chairman at Stakis in March as the scale of the problems became clear, and he immediately started a wide-ranging shake-up. In June the group reported £45.1 million of pre-tax losses at the halfway stage, after £46 million of provisions, and Mr Stakis's fate was sealed.

Mr Michels, aged 44, has been with Ladbroke since 1981, mainly in hotels. Before that he was with Grand Metropolitan Hotels.

Ladbroke quickly denied that his departure left any difficulties over succession. Mr Michels reported to Michael Hirst, chairman of Hilton UK and Hilton International, and his duties will be taken over by Michael Finkleman, assistant managing director of Hilton UK, and Barry Maiden, its finance director.

Sir Lewis said Mr Michels "will bring energy and a special dynamic to the development of Stakis Hotels and the group as a whole".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Regalian pays £14m for Frogmore stake

REGALIAN Properties brought a glimmer of light to the property market by paying almost £14 million for a 9.97 per cent stake in Frogmore Estates. Frogmore's share price jumped 24p to 353p when it became known that Regalian had paid 350p a share for the 4 million shares owned by Southend Property Holdings. It later fell back to 340p.

David Goldstone, Regalian's chairman, said Frogmore's principal attraction was the strong rental income from its investment properties. Whether Regalian launches a full bid probably depends on the success it has with Kensington Palace Gardens, an upmarket apartment block overlooking London's Kensington Gardens. A cash purchase of the block would put it in a strong position to do so.

Courtaulds updates

COURTAULDS, the speciality materials group, is speeding £20 million on replacing ageing machinery at its acetate plant in Spondon, Derby, over the next year.

The site makes acetate flake from wood pulp, which is used by other Courtaulds operations to make yarns, cigarette filters and packaging films. Increased automation will allow Courtaulds to reduce the 1,800 workforce through natural wastage. The Spondon plant was opened in 1916 as part of British Celanese and was acquired by Courtaulds in 1956.

Telegraph falls 7.4%

PRE-TAX profits at The Daily Telegraph, the privately owned publisher of The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph newspapers, fell 7.4 per cent to £27.5 million in the first nine months of 1991.

The fall would have been bigger but for a 62 per cent increase in investment income, which contributed £6.3 million. Turnover fell 3.3 per cent to £161.2 million and operating profits fell 19.8 per cent to £21 million. Earnings per share rose from 16.1p to 16.5p, thanks to a lower tax rate.

Essex boosts payout

SHAREHOLDERS in Essex Furniture, of Southend, will receive a final dividend of 1.25p, giving them an improved total of 2.25p for the year to end-June. Last year, the company paid two interim dividends of 1p each.

Essex lifted sales from £3.36 million to £4.69 million, but lower interest receipts led to a decline in pre-tax profits from £594,000 to £497,000. Earnings per share slipped from 4.49p to 3.48p. The company said trading had been encouraging in the first quarter of the current year.

Mrs Fields loses \$6m in first half

By MARTIN WALLER

SHAREHOLDERS in Mrs Fields, the biscuit retailer based in America, have had to absorb losses of further losses while their shares remain suspended to the Unlisted Securities Market. The company lost \$6.09 million in the six months to end-June, against a \$5.12 million loss last time.

There is again no ordinary dividend and the company

has agreed with its bankers not to pay out on the preferred shares until at least next March. The last payment on the ordinary was for 1987.

Debtors were suspended at 10p a month ago as a result of transactions between the company and affiliates owned by Debit and Radall Fields, the founders. The company says progress towards a restructuring is in the hands of the London Stock Exchange.

Tim Pierce, the vice-president of finance, said from the group's Utah headquarters that discussions were continuing with the Stock Exchange and a resolution was hoped for by next March.

The company's future and the reduction of its \$70 million debts hinge on a financing operation whereby stores are sold to their managers. So far, just two of the over-500 outlets worldwide have been sold, but Mr Pierce said it was hoped that a number of other sales would be completed by the year end.



Debbi Fields: no payout

Photocopier supply firms cleared of monopolies

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PHOTOCOPIER supply companies were yesterday cleared of orchestrating complex monopolies that are anti-competitive and operate against the public interest.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said in a report that firms supplying indirect electrostatic photocopiers, so-called plain paper copiers, were free to draw up contracts linking the supply of such machines with the supply of toners, spare parts, maintenance and company-designated dealers.

The ruling, which was ap-

proved by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, is based on a year-long study by the commission at the request of the director general of fair trading and follows a similar study in 1976.

The decision has been welcomed by Rank Xerox, the photocopy supply company jointly owned by Xerox of America and Britain's Rank Organisation, which dominates with about 31 per cent of the British market.

In 1978, the company was forced to drop contracts for major customers that linked

the supply of machines with the supply of toner.

Under the new ruling, the company has been cleared to reinstate the practice if it chooses.

A spokesman for Rank Xerox said yesterday that the MMC's move meant that "a level playing field" had been restored to the market.

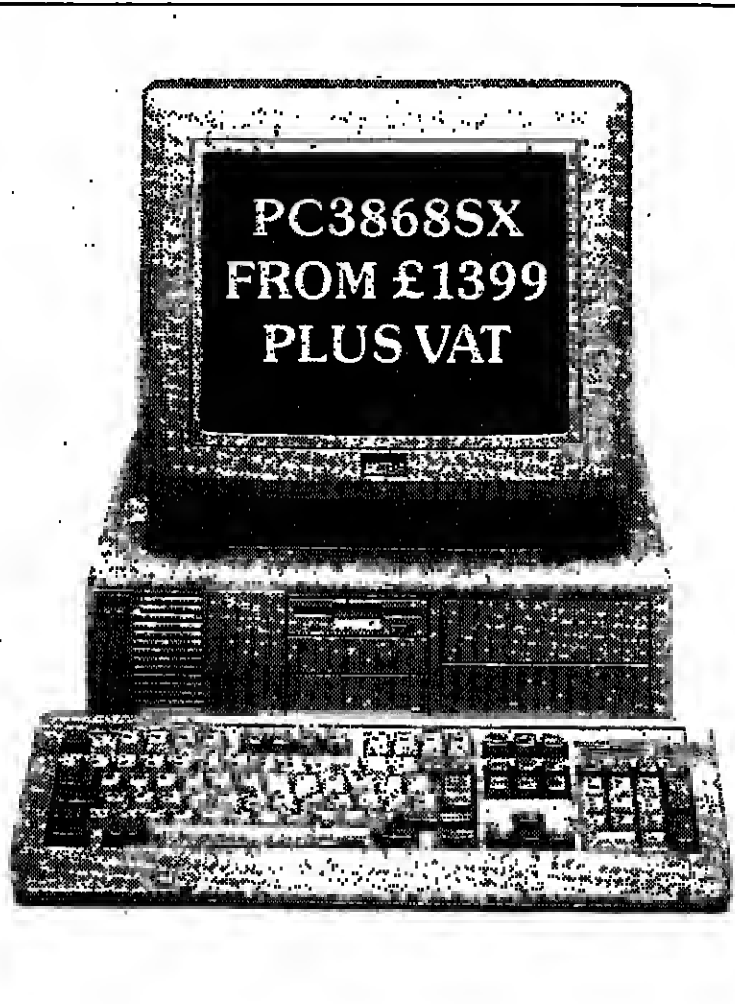
The commission's investigation found that, although four suppliers had been operating monopolies, the British market was now highly competitive with a great deal of consumer choice.

In 1975, Rank Xerox's market share was about 90 per cent but the commission has found that, by 1989, this had fallen to about 31 per cent with a plethora of international companies, including Canon and Kodak, now supplying machines.

The report argues that "most consumers see the supply of toner, consumables and spare parts, together with the supply of maintenance, as part of an overall copying service".

The report concludes: "Because competition in relation to the supply of photocopying machines themselves is so strong, market forces are brought into play on the individual elements of the copying package, since suppliers have to ensure that the package as a whole is competitive."

Indirect Electrostatic Photocopiers: A report on the supply by manufacturers and importers of indirect electrostatic photocopiers in the United Kingdom; HMSO; price £18.95.



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Frederick Cooper declines

Higher interest costs and exceptional reorganisation costs led to lower full-year profits at Frederick Cooper, the architectural hardware to electrical products group.

Pre-tax profits fell from £4.61 million to £3.91 million in the year to end-July, in spite of turnover, bolstered by acquisitions, ahead 20.8 per cent to £82.3 million.

Earnings per share were 3.5p (6p), with fully diluted earnings at 6p (8.4p). The final dividend is maintained at 2.5p, making an unchanged total of 4p for the year.

Jackson in red

Jackson Group, the civil and mechanical engineering, reported a pre-tax loss of £292,000 in the six months to end-June (£609,000 profit). There is a 0.9p deficit per share (1.8p earnings). The interim dividend is maintained at 1p. The shares were unchanged at 51p.

Shiloh up 25%

Shiloh, the textile spinner to medical disposables group, lifted pre-tax profits 25.7 per cent to £380,000 in the half-year to October 5. The interim dividend is maintained at 3.375p, including an unchanged special dividend of 2.5p. The shares rose 5p to 98p.

Alida down

Alida Holdings, the carrier bag subsidiary of British Polythene Industries, which still has a quoted 9.25 per cent preference share outstanding, reports interim pre-tax profits of £78,000 for the six months to end-June (£526,000).

Barrick joins

Shares in American Barrick Resources, the gold mining group listed on the New York, Paris, Swiss, Montreal and Toronto exchanges, have been formally introduced to, and are now listed on, the London Stock Exchange.

Wilton turns

Wilton Group, the property company, made an interim pre-tax profit of £68,000 for the six months to end-June (£436,000 loss). There is no interim dividend (nil).

EC postpones

The European Commission has postponed a decision on whether to block a £218 million state handout to Air France.

TEMPUS

Leaner Reed has strong potential as a core holding

NOT so long ago, a company reporting a 21 per cent fall in earnings would not expect to see its shares rise 7 per cent in response. Times have changed, however, and the market's response to Reed International's results for the half year to end-September was well justified. In the least favourable circumstances, the group's strategy of selling most of its interests and buying expensively into publishing is at last proving credible.

Of the £24 million drop in pre-tax profit to £85.3 million, about £15.5 million is accounted for by the television listing war, which plunged the TV Times into a loss of more than £3 million, though it is now back in profit. Otherwise, profits on little changed turnover of £761 million would have been only 8 per cent lower.

That is a truer reflection of the recession effect and shows that the cost-cutting exercises have paid off, notably in magazines and the rest of the consumer publishing business. As a result, the group has proved genuinely resilient.

There are some good performances from the divisions. Books delivered a 28 per cent rise in operating profit on a 13 per cent sales increase, partly thanks to strength in legal publishing, trimming of overheads and a return on earlier investment in educational books to cover the new national curriculum.

Business publishing could not escape the recession, however, and was down again on both sides of the Atlantic. In America, where the recovery is better established, it should now start to turn round. In Britain, any recovery is so far confined to a fragile improvement in consumer magazine advertising, but at least Reed is seeing some light where most businesses have yet to see any at all.

Peter Davis, the chairman, is confident enough to expect to recoup the first-half shortfall in the more important second half, which was hit last year by the effect of the Gulf

conflict on travel-related businesses. On that basis, Eric de Balleage of Panmure Gordon sees pre-tax profits edging up from £224 million to about £230 million for the full year. That would leave the shares, at 504p, selling at 17 times prospective earnings of nearly 30p per share. If the 5 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 5.25p is repeated for the full year, the shares would yield 3.9 per cent.

Given the big recovery potential, this is not expensive. Reed is also in a good position to buy assets in a buyer's market and it would not be a complete surprise if the OAG American airline guides were to be added to Reed's £145 million purchase of Macmillan directories from MCC. These strengths should establish Reed as a core long-term holding for institutions.

Ferguson

FERGUSON International Holdings now has a more focused approach to its core packaging, printing and plastics businesses after the two-part sale of its 24 per cent stake in Metro Radio of Newcastle.

As regards its attractions to the investor, however, the new regime is counterbalanced by the departure from the shareholders' register of two or three unnamed printing and packaging groups and the effect of the recession. The last was on display with some disappointing half-year figures, with pre-tax profits down from £6.33 million to £4.17 million.

The company professes itself disappointed by the increased severity of the downturn in consumer expenditure in the second quarter; the market shared that disappointment, marking the shares down 16p to 271p.

Turnover fell 5 per cent to £61.3 million, disregarding acquisitions, but trading profits were down 28 per cent to £4.7 million, spread across all divisions.

The divestment programme and tighter control on cash

halved borrowings to £10 million, leaving the group 33 per cent geared. The analysts have had to trim their estimates and the shares now sell on a multiple of about 16 times this year's earnings. Still close to their year's peak and hardly worth chasing for now.

Amax

AMAX, the world's fourth-largest aluminium group with interests in energy, gold, coal and molybdenum, could be in line for longer-term benefits after the decision to benefit aluminium through a joint venture with Mitsui of Japan.

The essence of the venture is the marketing of patented forging technology - initially for the car industry - which could eventually raise the aluminium content of a car from 170lb to 1,000lb. The process may be applied to military, aerospace and electrical applications - widening the use of, and the demand for, aluminium.

As a low-cost producer, Amax has the staying power to live through aluminium's current weakness - the price is now at a six-year low and, in real terms, is the lowest for 15 years - and any strides Amax makes on the road of beneficiation will help its bottom line.

Aluminium's contribution, at \$28 million (\$85 million), made up the bulk of Amax's third-quarter net earnings of \$46 million (\$105 million). Gold brought in \$5 million (\$13 million) and coal made \$27 million (\$19 million).

But time and metal prices are against most base metals groups and net earnings for this year could well tumble from 1990's 258 cents to 56 cents - though net earnings might improve to 96 cents next year.

At about \$21 a share, the cash flow multiple of four times compares with the average five to seven times for North American base metal companies in general. When base metal prices recover, remember Amax.



Ring of confidence: Peter Davis, chairman, expects a second-half profit boost

Jefferson and Hanson join to bid for Finlay

By OUR CITY STAFF

JEFFERSON Smurfit, Ireland's largest private sector company, has joined forces with Hanson to make a £3.87 million recommended takeover bid for Finlay Packaging, the Belfast cigarette carton maker. The offer is being made through Neidavance, a bid vehicle 52 per cent owned by Jefferson and 48 per cent owned by Hanson.

Finlay shareholders are offered 45p a share in cash or a loan note alternative. Finlay shares rose 18p to 45p. The offer price represents an 80 per cent premium to the Finlay market price the day before the bid announcement.

Neidavance has already received irrevocable acceptances from directors of Finlay and their families for 21 per cent of the shares. The pension fund of Imperial, a Hanson subsidiary, holds a further 11.6 per cent of the Finlay shares.

Finlay made a pre-tax loss of £576,000 for the year to end-December (£270,000 profit). For the six months to end-June, Finlay made pre-tax profits of £206,000 (£243,000 loss). Finlay is making a 0.75p dividend for the first half.

Cullen's continues recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

CULLEN'S Holdings, the convenience stores group, continued its recovery with pre-tax profits up 9 per cent to £370,000 in the six months to August 28.

Peter Matthews, chief executive, says Cullen's remains largely unaffected by supermarket price wars. "We are a supplement to supermarkets. We have a niche," Mr Matthews said.

The figures show a £197,000 profit from the sale of franchises, against £482,000 previously. Mr Matthews said the company was opening new area franchises.

Earnings per share were unchanged at 1.3p. There is no interim dividend again, but the company hopes to make a payment at the final stage. The shares were unchanged at 40p.

Elliott rebukes Clark over Foster's boardroom dispute

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

JOHN Elliott, the former Elders chief, hit back in the Foster's Brewing boardroom battle yesterday. He rebuked Nobby Clark, the former banker who is chairman of Foster's, for distributing a letter to shareholders expressing his concerns about potential changes to the board's structure.

He said the letter, in which Mr Clark threatened to quit, was "unwarranted" and could be "wrongly construed".

Mr Elliott said the board needed to take action to improve its performance before he would decide how to vote at next month's annual meeting.

He made the comments in a letter to Mr Clark, which was also sent to Foster's shareholders. In it, he replied to Mr

Clark's claim that Mr Elliott's International Brewing Holdings, which has 37 per cent of Foster's, gave undertakings supporting the present structure of the board.

He said IBH gave "certain assurances as to board composition", but these related to the situation before the Foster's annual meeting last November, and were given to ensure board co-operation for the sale of Foster's shares by IBH to Asahi, the Japanese brewer, which now has 20 per cent of Foster's.

Mr Elliott said the present board and management structure has been in place for a year and IBH was disappointed with "several aspects" of Foster's performance. These concerns had been put to the board and IBH was

"keen" for them to be looked at soon.

He said: "IBH's voting intentions [at the AGM] will be based on our desire for Foster's and our expectation that this will lead to a healthy dividend and a higher share price. We imagine that all other Foster's shareholders would share these goals."

Mr Clark was in Tokyo yesterday and would not expand on his statement. Asahi also declined to comment. Foster's has been in the midst of a restructuring and has indicated that it will not be issuing dividends in the short term. However, IBH, formerly Hartin Holdings, is dependent on dividends from Foster's as its only source of cash and needs funds to pay its heavy debt.

Usher up 46% at half time

By PHILIP PANGALOS

USHER-WALKER, the printing inks and roller group, unveiled a 46 per cent advance in first-half profits, helped by cost-cutting and lower raw material costs.

Pre-tax profits rose from £149,000 to £217,000 in the six months to end-June, despite a slip in turnover from £8.47 million to £8.34 million. The shares rose 5p to 187p.

This year the board was strengthened by the appointment of David Williams, previously deputy chairman of Mosaic Investments, as corporate development director. He has plans for further expansion at Usher-Walker.

The interim dividend rises from 1.75p to 2p, financed by earnings per share of 3.25p against 1.3p.

DC Cook to raise £4.2m in placing

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DC COOK Holdings, the USM-quoted motor dealer and roadside property developer, is raising £4.2 million through a share placing to finance the development of a petrol filling station chain in partnership with Taylor Woodrow.

The new shares are being offered at 32p compared with yesterday's closing market price of 38p, up 2p. Existing shareholders can subscribe for one new share for every two held. Two directors and their family trusts have said they will not take up any new shares "to increase the number of institutional shareholders".

The funds will initially be used to reduce gearing from its pro forma April 30, 1991, year-end level of 140 per cent

to about 70 per cent. The company said that as cash was generated by the roadside development activities in Britain and Spain, additional investment would be made in the motor division "subject to the maintenance of an acceptable ratio of debt to equity".

The joint venture with TWLH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Taylor Woodrow, will use the funds to develop a small chain of high-volume petrol filling stations, which may also incorporate services such as convenience stores and car washes.

Despite making a small trading loss in the first four months of the year, in line with expectations, the company remains "confident" about the prospects for the year to end-April.

UK firms asked to aid South Africa's recovery

By JON ASHWORTH

SOUTH Africa put political differences aside yesterday with a call to British business to help set it on the road to economic recovery.

Nearly 150 British industrialists gathered at South Africa House, overlooking Trafalgar Square, for the latest in a string of appeals for new investment in the region. South Africa, they were told, had to pump £25 billion a year into its economy and needed foreign investment to set the ball rolling.

Kent Durr, South African ambassador to London, told delegates at the conference, organised by Ernst & Young, that his country was entering "a new renaissance".

Mr Durr, who was South Africa's trade and industry minister before taking up his present post in April, said exports in 1992 were likely to see their strongest growth for seven years. New markets, the crumbling of sanctions and worldwide economic recovery were expected to boost the export figure by 29 per cent. Japan dropped all sanctions against South Africa last week and signed a £205 million iron



Men with a mission: Max Tlakula (left), ambassador Kent Durr and Colin Hall all want investment

ore contract. Black opposition groups attacked the transaction as "premature".

Mr Durr said opportunities were opening for South African companies to other countries. "There is a lot of talk about when to invest in South Africa but also tremendous potential for South African companies to invest abroad. Those that are already there will become more visible

and there will be new entrants." South Africa's London embassy receives 500 trade enquiries a week.

Figures published last week show that the republic has continued trading with all countries in Africa, despite the presence of sanctions. Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique and Malawi are its five most important African trading partners. The lifting of

"people to people" sanctions announced at the Commonwealth conference in Harare has paved the way for an influx of new airlines. Qantas, which broke off direct links with South Africa in the Seventies, is negotiating to restart services, and a Japanese airline is set to follow. South African Airways is due to relaunch its New York service within days. Max Tlakula

head of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce, representing 100,000 black businessmen, many of them in the townships, sounded a note of caution.

The outlook for the next two or three years was rocky, he said. Clashes between rival black factions would continue. For now, South Africa might not be the best place for new investment, even though it

desperately needed it. The state power company, Eskom, needed to invest £280 million a year for the next 10 years to bring electricity to everyone, he said. A million new homes had to be built. The country required 50,000 new teachers a year.

Colin Hall, chief executive of Woolfin, South African equivalent of Marks and Spencer, said the country's economic structure had survived despite years of "appalling" government. "In the past, South Africa has spent billions and billions of rand on unworkable projects," he said.

Mr Hall added that "Made in South Africa" was again becoming an acceptable trade mark and British investors should take advantage. "Britain built most of what was good in South Africa. We'd love to see you back this winter."

Tim Sainsbury, minister for trade, is due to speak at a conference of British industry in London on November 28. Other speakers include Barend du Plessis, South African minister of finance, and Chief Mangosutho Buthe, South African president.

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COMMENT

Brussels rules, OK?

Whichall officials were insisting last night that the so-called Liley doctrine was alive and well following a statement from Brussels on the vexed matter of takeovers by state-controlled foreign companies. Fine, but on most other readings of the statement, Mr Liley's efforts to prevent creeping re-nationalisation appear as lifeless as the proverbial duck.

However much the trade secretary's bid to combat what he called nationalisation by the back door may strike a chord with British businessmen, it will not wash in Brussels. State ownership of a bidder is no grounds for discrimination according to EC rules as they stand.

Under pressure, Mr Liley has confined to the EC that in future he will in future play strictly by those rules.

Worse still for the trade secretary, he has been well and truly put in his place over the related matter of his right to judge whether or not state-owned businesses do in fact enjoy unfair advantages. In its statement Brussels took pains to point out that the EC has exclusive competence to rule on cases of illegal state aid and that Britain acknowledged this to be so.

British business will probably feel some sympathy for Mr Liley's attempt to highlight and curb the takeover activities of (mostly French) state-influenced businesses, though it has effectively failed. The idea that playing fields will be level when the single market moves into full operation is not commonly expressed in British boardrooms. Lack of reciprocity is most common in the fields of mergers and acquisitions. Britain has the largest, most liquid and most accessible securities markets in Europe and willingly provides expertise and advice to enable continental buyers to take over their corporate targets with a minimum of difficulty. Traffic moving across the Channel in the opposite direction is much lighter and slower moving.

Mr Liley is right to recognise too that state backed enterprises enjoy many luxuries that put them at an advantage. They can afford a longer view, perhaps even substantial losses provided their backer remains in support. Other perks can include easy access to fresh equity and finer credit terms arising through the sovereign connection. While Brussels has stuck to the letter of the law it has been churlish perhaps even in the long run foolish, in its refusal to acknowledge that Mr Liley's concerns have any validity. Such attitudes lead eventually to suspicion and mistrust.

ERM hopes

What will the Chancellor say in tonight's Guildhall speech? Apart from the obligatory words of self-congratulation about forecasting economic recovery and whipping inflation, it is safer to predict what Mr Lamont will not say. He will not announce a move into the narrow band of the ERM, since his Bank of England advisers have told him that this would be far too risky so close to the general election. Neither will he hint at further reductions in interest rates, since the Bank fears that this too might upset the markets, while the Treasury believes that the economic recovery requires no further help in any case.

Mr Lamont is also unlikely to give many clues about the coming year's funding requirements since these will be dealt with in the autumn statement a week or two later. And he will find it difficult to be too precise about the government's long-term strategy on European monetary union, for fear of revealing John Major's hand in the game of political poker that still lies ahead at Maastricht. With so much excluded, there will be plenty of time for the self-congratulation. Beyond the rhetoric, a few technical initiatives seem possible. The public sector accounts might be modified to allow purchases of gifts by banks and building societies to count towards the PSBR.

But this would be small beer, amounting to nothing more than wrinkles in the public sector accounting. The only serious initiative the markets were discussing yesterday would be a hint, or even a clear promise, that when sterling was taken into the narrow ERM bands, it would be with an unchanged central rate of DM2.95. This would in fact be merely a public reiteration of the preference frequently revealed by the Treasury in private. It might give a brief lift to sterling. But then, it might just as easily provoke the test of wills between the currency speculators and the Bank of England that the Chancellor will want to avoid at all costs.

Signs of a cheap and cheerful Christmas boost retailers

The gloom of last year's festive season is unlikely to haunt the high street this year,

says Gillian Bowditch

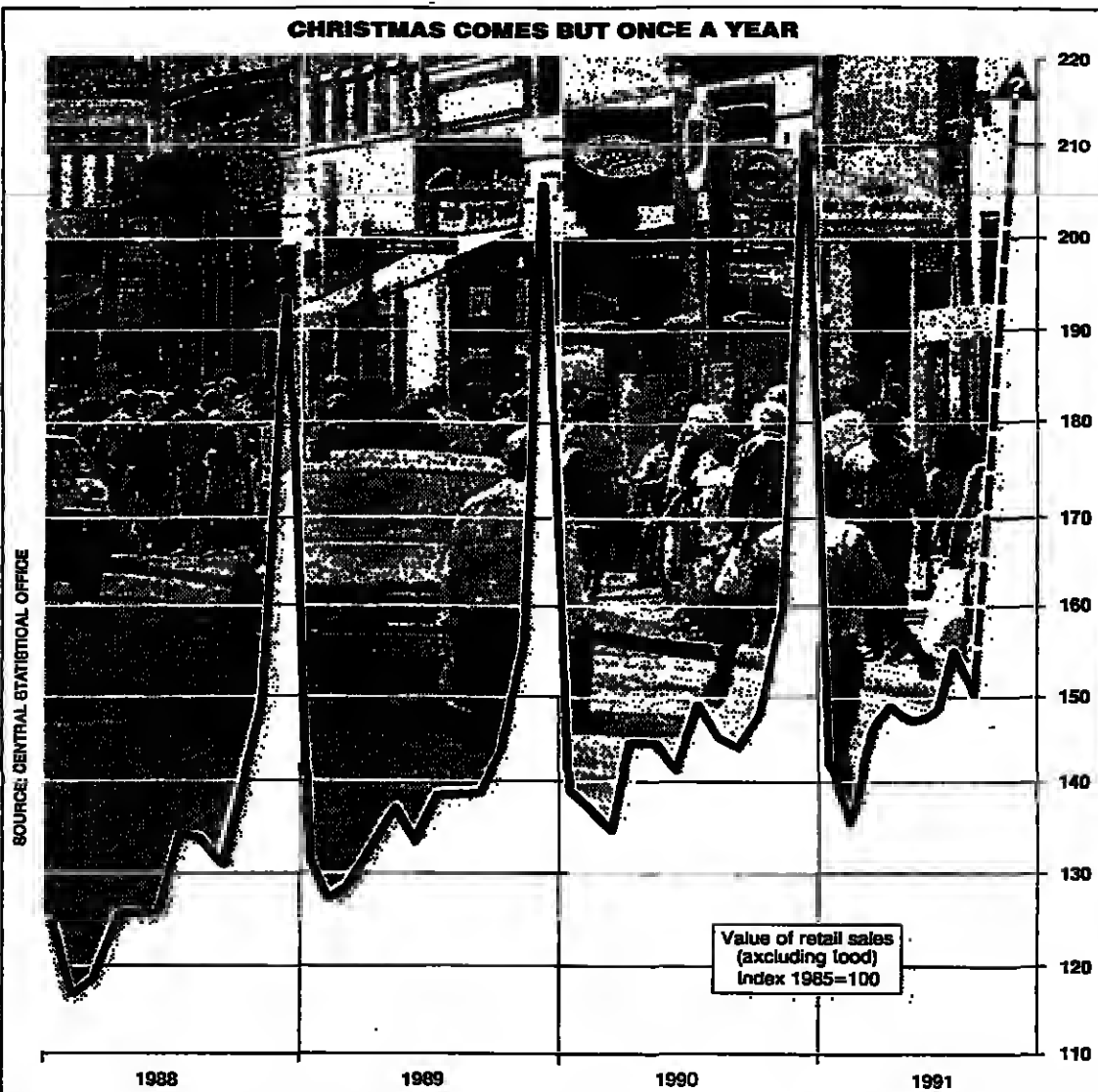
Christmas is coming... or is it? For most of us, Christmas will arrive gift-wrapped as usual on December 25, but for the nation's shopkeepers the arrival of the festive season is a less predictable affair. Will it be late or early, utilitarian or frivolous, expensive or penny-pinching?

Whether Aunt Molly gets that luxury silk bed jacket or just another soap on a rope this year is of utmost importance to the buyers and number crunchers of the retail sector, most of whom will have taken a view on the matter months ago when they ordered their Christmas stock.

The signs are that this season should be a more festive affair than last year's for the shopkeepers, among which many of the large high street groups are budgeting for no upturn before next spring. On average, retailers double their profits in December against those of most other months. Some sectors, such as jewellers, are even more dependent on Christmas.

Last Christmas was one of the worst for many a decade, with shoppers leaving buying until the last two weeks. Pre-Christmas sales by desperate retailers killed margin growth and encouraged a late season in which consumer confidence was low.

This year, some factors that contributed to that gloom have gone. Last year, the uncertainty over the looming Gulf war and the unrest caused by Mrs Thatcher's departure as leader of the Conservative party and prime minister, knocked consumer confidence just before Christmas. Rising unemployment figures, mortgage rates at 14.5 per cent and crumbling house prices also combined to make Christmas the most Scrooge-like affair since the 1981 Hero Turtles provided light relief. Even the weather worked against retailers. Heavy snow throughout



Britain over the weekend of December 8 and 9 forced shops to shut, while the warm weather before then had prevented shoppers from thinking about Christmas.

This year the omens are better. Uncertainty over the general election has not, say most retailers, affected sales as the Gulf situation did. Growth in unemployment has slowed and interest charges have fallen 3 per cent. Consumer confidence has returned; the Gallup poll that last December gauged confidence as minus 18 per cent, now reads plus 1 per cent. That is expected to improve to plus 5 per cent in December.

SG Warburg estimates that consumer spending in volume terms in the final quarter of this year will be 0.7 per cent higher than the same period last year, which was down 0.4 per cent on the year before. That forecast follows gloomy spending figures showing sales between April and September down on a year ago. Most importantly, consumers have more money this Christmas.

A house owner with a £35,000 mortgage will be, on average, an extra £80 a month better off than last year. Since poor retail figures for the last few months show that little of this increased wealth has found its way into the shops, retailers are

hoping it will appear at Christmas. Even the prospect of the government's sale of the second tranche of BT shares is unlikely to depress spending much, with the great appeal of popular share ownership apparently having waned.

After such a poor result last year, the annual comparisons will look better. Year-on-year retail sales by 1 per cent in volume terms in the last quarter of last year, so even a small improvement this Christmas will look good. But perhaps the most promising indicator is the upturn in sales reported by many retailers for this month. Mark Husson, retail analyst at Warburgs, believes Marks and Spencer may have increased sales in October by 10 per cent. Sears is also reporting a healthy advance, he says.

Last year's pre-Christmas discounts followed a particularly poor November, with retailers facing higher fixed costs in the form of increased rents, uniform business rates and wages deciding to cut margins to increase sales. The effect was that shoppers sought last-minute bargains. If most retailers can avoid the temptation to discount before Christmas, the sector will be better off.

Even so, this Christmas is still unlikely to be a bumper season on the scale of 1988. Mr Husson says: "It may well be a cheap and cheerful Christmas."

Forcing the sun to rise at Daiwa

Earlier this year, Yoshiyuki Takemoto, the president of Daiwa Europe, pinned up a chart of the Nikkei index in his City office. The chart is there as a reminder that the plentiful days of the late Eighties have gone and that the collapse in share prices and trading volumes in Tokyo last year has ushered in a much harsher business climate.

Yesterday's 159-point fall in the Nikkei index to below 25,000 was a reminder of the sea change in the Japanese equity markets. "This was a hubbly," said Mr Takemoto, pointing to the highs of the late Eighties. "It has given us capital but now we must understand that our main line of business - equity trading - is not going to be very profitable in future."

Daiwa, like the three other big Japanese securities houses, is going through difficult changes. The scandals that have wracked Tokyo all year, and seen the closure of parts of Nomura, the largest house, are just one aspect of the difficulties. The main problem is how to restore the vast profits they made from Japan's long bull market.

The London subsidiaries of the Japanese brokers have suffered badly due to the collapse of the equity warrant market. Pre-tax profits at Daiwa Europe in the year to end-March plunged by three-quarters to £14.5 million.

Mr Takemoto's task is to find replacement earnings. He admits it will not be easy. "It is easy for example to move into proprietary trading, but it is also easy to lose money, so we will be careful." For this reason, Daiwa has no plans to move into British equity market-making but would rethink if a Pan-European stock market emerged.

Mr Takemoto is faced, like others, with intense competition in the industry that suffers from lack of differentiation between the products each firm offers. The Japanese are renowned for their emphasis on long-term growth, and Daiwa Europe is no exception. It is taking a leading role in several new markets that promise to grow as European Monetary Union approaches. One



Takemoto: careful

is the ecu bond market, in which it has co-ed an issue for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Daiwa is also concentrating on eastern Europe, though profits from these activities are a long way off. The firm has had an office in London for 25 years. Whether it can recover from recent setbacks will, like its plans, only become clear in the long term.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Seasonal view from high street

Keith Oates, managing director of Marks and Spencer: "We should be able to beat last year's Christmas figures with some ease. Last year, the recession was very bad but it is likely to be a more utilitarian Christmas than in the past." Terry Maher, chairman of Penates: "I'm fairly optimistic about Christmas. The comparables are easier this year. Consumers will be looking for value for money and we will be putting more emphasis on this. As well as discounting some of our books by 25 per cent, we will be giving vouchers worth £1."

Kevin Hawkins, director of corporate affairs at WH Smith: "Trade

in the retail sector generally has picked up a bit with the cold weather this month... and if the weather is kind to us, Christmas should be OK, although no one is putting any heavy bets on it. We are expecting sales of videos to be strong." Lucinda Davies, spokeswoman for Storehouse: "We've put a lot of effort into our offering for Christmas. Where it will show most is in Habitat and BHS. BHS will have its Taste of Christmas shop within shops again this year selling gifts, decorations cards etc. They will also be marketing other lines such as silk lingerie and hand knit sweaters as Christmas gifts. BHS will have

Christmas catalogues, which will be available in-store and will be mailed out to customers. Habitat's theme will be a European Christmas." Janet Hilditch, spokeswoman for Argos: "The big thing this Christmas is going to be World Wrestling Federation figures. Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior and Jake the Snake Roberts, complete with pythons, are the biggest things since Teenage Mutant Turtles according to our buyers. We also have a strong girls' range. We're expecting big things of Barbie Doll this year and Quince Drink and Wet dolls are looking popular. These are five tiny dolls with masses of hair."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

FROM OPORTO, PORTUGAL

Lost bid lacks fizz

DESPITE the recession, money cannot, it seems, buy everything. Christopher Heath, managing director of Baring Brothers, who hit the headlines a couple of years ago as the highest paid man in Britain, put in a joint bid of £23,000 with Peter Lever, a company commercial silk, for 23 vintage bottles of Krug champagne, dating from 1928, at a charity auction in New York. But the Heath/Lever bid, sent by facsimile from London a week ago, went astray. For the Krug lot was sold to Bipim Desai, a Los Angeles resident, who hid a mere \$17,000 - £442 a bottle. "We are trying to find out what happened, we are very disappointed," says Lever. The charity, Meals on Wheels, must be equally disappointed, since it has lost an extra \$6,000.

Royalties lost

WHO said there was no money in writing about the noble grape? Despite his suitably rustic image, Hugh Johnson, the wine expert who also owns a wine artefacts shop in St James's, has now sold well over 2 million copies of his *World Atlas of Wine*, first published in the Seventies. For each copy sold he has received £1 in royalties.

Fighting flask

THE curious squat shape of a Mateus Rosé bottle is a copy of the design of the glass and leather water flasks carried by Portuguese soldiers in the first world war. "When my father



"I forget the Pootsie and Nikkei, but Dow is a brand of port"

first discussed the idea with his friends they said it was not work because it was so short you would not be able to see the bottles," says Fernando Guedes, chairman of Sogrape, the family firm that produces Mateus. "But my father realised that if it was shorter, shopkeepers would have to put it in front of other bottles and it would catch the customers' eyes."

Question of age

LOVE it or loath it, Mateus Rosé sells more than 30 million bottles a year worldwide, 3 million of them in the UK. The quantity has remained fairly static in recent years, but the age of the consumer profile for the product is set to fall. "Our typical consumer in the UK is aged between 35 and 50 and in the C1 and C2 social categories, with a few consumers in the B and D categories," says Miguel Pinto, marketing director of Sogrape, the privately owned Oporto con-

glomerate that produces it. "We have tested the German market and successfully lowered it to 20 years there, without alienating our traditional consumers. We now want to do the same thing in the UK." When white-soaked Bollyboys start ordering it by the bottle in Corney & Barrow and the Greenhouse, to accompany smoked salmon sandwiches, you will know that they have succeeded.

Grapes of wrath

IF YOUR mother-in-law's favourite Christmas tipple is a glass or two of sherry you had better lay in extra supplies now. For the past six weeks, the sherry industry has been at a complete standstill because of a strike by 10,000 Spanish workers over the parlous state of their pension fund. The grapes, due to be picked in mid-September, are now rotting on the vines and the whole harvest has been ruined. While some of the smaller producers could face financial ruin, the bigger players such as Harvey's, owned by Allied-Lyons, and Croft, part of Grand Metropolitan, have been building up their reserves and hope that these stocks will see them through the all-important Christmas period. "I do not think it will necessarily affect prices but it could affect supplies," says John Burnett, managing director of Croft Portugal. "We have had calls from several of our distributors who are very worried. Stocks could last until the end of the year, but it is possible that they might run out before Christmas."

CAROL LEONARD

Extend the courts' generosity

From Mr Stephen Porter
Sir, I note with interest that Mr Asil Nadir and his two co-defendants in the prosecutions being brought against him in connection with Polly Peck International have been granted one thousand pounds per week each for "living expenses" presumably from their own funds which have been frozen by the court. In the case of Mr Nadir (and possibly the others) it could be argued that the court, by granting such a large allowance, is preferring the maintenance of his current lifestyle to his existing personal creditors.

By contrast, in the majority of "bankruptcy" proceedings where there are no criminal

allegations, debtors are treated altogether differently with the allowances made by the court often a fraction of that given to Mr Nadir and sometimes nothing at all. Does this mean that there is an unwritten law that the more a person owes or the more they are alleged to have misappropriated, the more the courts will grant in "expenses"?

Without wishing Mr Nadir and his co-defendants to be treated more harshly, I would suggest that the generosity shown to them should be extended to their less highly-leveraged brethren.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PORTER,
37 Canfield Gardens,
NW6.

CBI aware of service sector's value

From the President of the Confederation of British Industry
Sir, The Chairman of the British Tourist Authority (letter 24 October) is mistaken in believing that the role of services is not clearly understood and appreciated by the Confederation of British Industry.

As the first President of the CBI to come from the service sector, I can assure him that the CBI exists to represent all sectors of British business. The fact that we are proposing to set up a National Manufacturing Council to strengthen the work we do for manufacturing in no way diminishes the work we already do for those of our member companies with interests in banking, catering, distribution, insurance, retailing, tourism, transport and the many other service industries we represent.

Indeed, if anything, it will enhance that work, since without a strong and competitive manufacturing base there can only be less business for the service sector as a whole.

As the report of the CBI's Manufacturing Advisory Group makes clear, the business community is interdependent. Manufacturing currently accounts for more than 22 per cent of gross domestic product and private sector services for 41 per cent. A strong and competitive economy needs both.

Yours faithfully,
SIR BRIAN CORBY,
President,
CBI,
Centre Point,
103 Oxford Street,
WC1.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Clean shave may have helped BAE

From Mr I. Sutherland
Sir, Many years ago I was told never to invest in a company where the Chairman had a beard and there was a woman on the Board. I did have some minor dealings with such a company. In that case the woman was the Chairman's mother.

The "failure" of the BAE rights issue prompts a question. Is there a woman on the Board? If there is, should she have told the Chairman to get rid of his beard and stop looking like Yasser Arafat? If this had happened, shareholder confidence could have been greater on both counts.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SUTHERLAND,
50 Crediton Hill,
NW6.

With profits but without votes on bid

From C.R. Bryans
Sir, I anticipate that many with-profit members of company pension arrangements (together with their trustees) will share the disappointment of not having any say at the Special General Meeting convened to decide on the important issue of demutualisation and "The Bid" by Abbey National.

My letter of complaint on this matter to the Chairman, Mr Macpherson, has been answered by the "Information Officer". Apparently, the persons who are members and entitled to vote are determined by the Society's Regulations, which are constituted by Act of Parliament. Scottish Mutual excludes members of the society who hold with-profit company pensions as the trustees

are deemed the "proposer". Because the proposer's with-profit pension fund is not secured for trustees' benefit, a vote is not given as benefits are not provided on an "own life basis" for the proposer.

This strikes me as being unfair. Scottish Mutual's correct course of action should be firstly to do whatever is necessary to ensure that all with-profit owners of the society are allowed a vote on their society's future. They can then proceed with the issues of the Special General Meeting convened for November 11, 1991.

Yours faithfully,
C.R. BRYANS,
C W Financial Services,
1 Devonshire Street, W1.

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INSOLVENCY MANAGERS LONDON/RECENT 15K-25K

INSOLVENCY MANAGERS LONDON/RECENT 15K-25K

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INSOLVENCY MANAGERS LONDON/RECENT 15K-25K

NEWAGE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

**MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING
MANAGER**

Applications are invited from qualified accountants for the above post which is one of two senior posts reporting to the Financial Director.

The successful candidate is likely to be in the 25-30 age range having a minimum of two years post qualification industrial experience including supervision of staff.

This post carries an excellent package with salary c.£21K, car and other benefits.

Newage International, based in Stamford, Lincs, is the leading manufacturer of a.c. generators in the 20-2000 KVA power range with a turnover of £80m p.a. and 850 employees.

Applications with full C.V.'s quoting reference 'NAM/1' should be addressed to:

Alan Gardiner,
Personnel Executive
Newage International Limited,
P.O. Box 17,
Barnack Road
Stamford,
Lincs. PE9 2NB

to arrive not later than 18 November 1991.

INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER

South Coast c£27,500 + Car + Bens

As a result of a recent promotion, our client, a major force in the UK financial services market, wishes to recruit an Internal Audit Manager.

Reporting to the Chief Internal Auditor, the Internal Audit Manager will be responsible for managing a staff of five internal auditors in the conduct of both systems and VFM audits.

Applicants must be qualified accountants. While financial services sector experience is desirable, of far greater importance will be a record of achievement in a results orientated internal audit environment.

This is a hands-on role in a company that expects a positive contribution from its internal audit department. Applicants should therefore be dynamic individuals, with well developed interpersonal skills who can add value to the service the department provides.

The benefits package includes a mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension and relocation assistance where appropriate.

To apply, contact Adrian Simpson RSC ACA or Jane Barclay MBA ACIS on 071 936 2601 (out of office hours 0784 459977) or write to them at the address below.

YOU COULDN'T TALK TO BETTER QUALIFIED PEOPLE

BARCLAY SIMPSON

HAMILTON HOUSE, 1 TEMPLE AVENUE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON EC4Y 0HA

071-936 2601

**MICHELANGELO ASSOCIATES**

36/38 Whitefriars Street, London EC4Y 8BH

Tel: 071 936 2857 Fax: 071 583 6331

**NEWLY/RECENTLY QUALIFIED
ACCOUNTANTS**

CONSULTANCY - TO £32,000

Our client has built an enviable reputation as a World leader in Management Consultancy. They continue to maintain and improve their standing year on year, against the stiffest competition by offering training second to none and giving paramount importance to personal development and promotion prospects. Their 1992 business plan is ready for launch and they have exciting career opportunities for newly/recently qualified ACAs.

You must possess an excellent professional and academic record with first time passes at a major practice (preferably Big 6 but certainly Top 20), a good degree and solid career progress to date. You could be newly qualified or have up to 3 years PQE. This is a dynamic opportunity to progress with excellent remuneration and first class prospects.

For further information contact Patrick O'Brien on 071-936 2857 or send your C.V. in the strictest confidence to the above address.

TALKING BUSINESS NO. 1

"I'd like to
start a
business
but don't know
where to
start."

**Any High Street
branch of NatWest.**

NatWest has over 4000 Small Business Advisers on hand to give you advice and help. So if you're thinking of setting up your own business, start by talking to your nearest Small Business Adviser. For a free Information Pack, just return the coupon or call us on the number below.

Fill in the details and post to: NatWest Small Business Services, FREEPOST, Hounslow TW4 5BR or alternatively call us free on: 0800 777 888

Name/Ms _____ Initials _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

The information requested on this form will be used to enable NatWest to prepare the home necessary for you to enjoy a beneficial relationship with the Bank. The information may also be used to offer NatWest Group products and services as part of the NatWest Information Programme. This is designed to keep you well informed of all the services we offer and anything new we introduce. Tick this box only if you wish to opt out of the NatWest Information Programme.

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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT
c £24,000

The recently established London East Training and Enterprise Council is one of 82 set up around the country with the brief to stimulate business growth and help develop the trained workforce vital to face the competitive challenge of the 90's and beyond.

We now seek a finalist or newly qualified Accountant, to take control of the financial accounts. This will involve: implementing and running a computerised accounting system; setting up appropriate financial practices and controls; assuming responsibility for meeting audit requirements.

You will report to the Commercial Director for all financial matters. The Board of Directors will rely on regular financial reports from you to keep them updated on the current situation and projections.

You will need knowledge of statutory annual reporting requirements, and developing efficient and effective financial controls. You will also need to be able to motivate your team and optimise their performance.

This post calls for strong interpersonal skills, leadership and commitment to equal opportunities and human resource development.

London East TEC is an equal opportunities employer.

C.V. to Glenda Milligan

LETEC

Cityside House

40 Adler Street

London E1 1EE

By 22 November 1991

**MAJOR MIDDLE
EASTERN BANK**

requires.

SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER

Location: Saudi Arabia Salary: c £35,000, Tax Free plus benefits.

Managing and developing the derivative products (SWAPS, Options etc) and settlement functions. You will be expected to provide a more effective and efficient service to the business managers. The role will also involve identification and implementation of any systems required. Candidates must show good financial awareness and understand the dynamics of trading activities and their impact on the business.

Candidates must have strong technical and analytical skills along with the ability to understand new products and their operational, financial and business implications. The individual will also be required to manage and train junior staff.

Contract arrangements are flexible and remuneration includes tax free salary plus benefits.

Please apply in strictest confidence to P.O. Box No. 5782.

SPANISH SPEAKING TRAINEE BROKER

International Blue Chip organisation seeks fluent Spanish-speaking Graduate (or 'A' level educated) person to join their expanding Latin American Division. Starting as a trainee, you will learn the business, travel to South America, and get involved. Excellent prospects. Knowledge of Portuguese useful. Age: 20-25. Salary: £ neg. Excellent benefits also include sports facilities.

Appointments / Language

TELEPHONE 071 734 3380

FAX 071 439 6205

**TEMPORARY AD AGENCY
ACCOUNTS MANAGER**

Fast-growing media independent requires another pair of hands to assist in year end accounts preparation and bridge a bought ledger manager's holiday absence from now until end January.

The right person will have extensive media bought ledger experience, together with a good all-round knowledge of Ad Agency accounts, regional media, and Ad Serve computer systems.

Written applications only please, with accompanying C.V. and daytime telephone number to Nick West, Managing Partner, Austin West Media Limited, New Premier House, 150 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AL.

**MULTILINGUAL
SERVICES**

Recruitment Consultants

**CROSS-CHANNEL
ACCOUNTANCY**

PAROS: A pan-European company in the leisure industry is seeking bilingual accountancy staff who are familiar with French business practices, for its new Paris office.

Chief Financial Accountant: A qualified Accountant with expert knowledge of the French system and comprehensive experience at senior level. Negotiable salary in the region of £30K.

Contracts Manager: Bilingual English/French with other languages, and with accounting/administrative background. Will recruit, train and manage contracts team. £18K-£22K negotiable.

071 836 3794

Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HT

PRIVATE BANKING
c£40K + Benefits

Our client, a major European Bank is seeking to develop its Private Banking Division and wishes to appoint an experienced Relationship Manager whose prime responsibility will be to advise clients on Stock Exchange and related investments. The ideal candidate will already be successful within an established Private Banking environment and seeking the opportunity to join a highly-motivated, expanding professional team.

Please contact Anne Langdon at 4 City Road, London EC1Y 2AA
Telephone: 071-628 9421 Fax: 071-256 2278
FINSBURY CONSULTING LTD
(Agency)

**Research Analyst, International
Investment Company**

Recent graduate in either economics or business studies is sought to work alongside a senior financial analyst. The position will involve financial market and company analysis. Knowledge of spreadsheets is required. Terms and conditions negotiable.

Please send your CV to: John Ross, AMAS UK Ltd, 16 Charles II St., London, SW1V 4DU.

**SALES
PROFESSIONALS**

As a PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNER you will be providing the ultimate Financial Planning Service. Your training will involve developing a highly competitive professional image and a high level of expertise in the use of financial planning tools.

Professionals, if you have a degree in Finance or Accounting, or a relevant qualification, you will be ideal for this role. A career with us offers you a chance to develop your skills and knowledge in a highly competitive and rewarding environment.

Apply now by telephoning Kevin Bradley on 0747 778822

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
9	BPB Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	BT	Industrials A-D	
11	Northumbrian	Water	
12	Grampian Hse	Industrials E-K	
13	Hickling Petroleum	Textiles	
14	McKee	Industrials L-R	
15	Logica	Electricals	
16	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
18	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
19	Volvo	Electricals	
20	7MI	Industrials E-K	
21	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores	
22	House Of Lore	Drugs/Stores	
23	Severn Trent	Water	
24	MB-Canadon	Industrials L-R	
25	ACT Group	Electricals	
26	Tesco	Food	
27	Stern Water	Water	
28	Usher Walker	Paper Print/Ad	
29	Coats Vytella	Drugs/Stores	
30	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
31	BAA	Transport	
32	Rolls-Royce	Motors/Aircraft	
33	BICC	Electricals	
34	Young 'A'	Breweries	
35	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
36	Boole	Food	
37	North West	Water	
38	BOC	Industrials A-D	
39	Ultramar	Oil/Gas	
40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's edition.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)								
99%	99%	Trains	6%	1991	96%	..	8.02	10.22
99%	99%	Exch	11%	1891	100			
99%	99%	Trains	71%	1991	93%	..		
99%	99%	Exch	10%	1992	98%	..	8.21	8.21
99%	99%	Trains	8%	1992	98%	..	6.06	6.06
100	91%	Trains	10%	1992	99%	..	10.0	6.98
100	98%	Trains	C78%	1992	100%	..	10.4	5.96
102	95%	Exch	12%	1992	100%	..	12.7	12.7
104	91%	Exch	10%	1992	100%	..	12.0	12.0
105	99%	Exch	13%	1992	103	..	13.0	9.72
95	88%	Fund	6%	1993	85	..	6.3	6.3
99	83%	Trains	6%	1993	90	..	8.9	8.9
100	97%	Trains	10%	1993	100%	..	8.6	8.67
104	100%	Trains	12%	1993	104%	..	8.8	8.78
105	100%	Trains	12%	1993	107%	..	11.6	8.74

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
9	BPB Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	BT	Industrials A-D	
11	Northumbrian	Water	
12	Grampian Hse	Industrials E-K	
13	Hickling Petroleum	Textiles	
14	McKee	Industrials L-R	
15	Logica	Electricals	
16	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
18	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
19	Volvo	Electricals	
20	7MI	Industrials E-K	
21	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores	
22	House Of Lore	Drugs/Stores	
23	Severn Trent	Water	
24	MB-Canadon	Industrials L-R	
25	ACT Group	Electricals	
26	Tesco	Food	
27	Stern Water	Water	
28	Usher Walker	Paper Print/Ad	
29	Coats Vytella	Drugs/Stores	
30	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
31	BAA	Transport	
32	Rolls-Royce	Motors/Aircraft	
33	BICC	Electricals	
34	Young 'A'	Breweries	
35	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
36	Boole	Food	
37	North West	Water	
38	BOC	Industrials A-D	
39	Ultramar	Oil/Gas	
40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
9	BPB Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	BT	Industrials A-D	
11	Northumbrian	Water	
12	Grampian Hse	Industrials E-K	
13	Hickling Petroleum	Textiles	
14	McKee	Industrials L-R	
15	Logica	Electricals	
16	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
18	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
19	Volvo	Electricals	
20	7MI	Industrials E-K	
21	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores	
22	House Of Lore	Drugs/Stores	
23	Severn Trent	Water	
24	MB-Canadon	Industrials L-R	
25	ACT Group	Electricals	
26	Tesco	Food	
27	Stern Water	Water	
28	Usher Walker	Paper Print/Ad	
29	Coats Vytella	Drugs/Stores	
30	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
31	BAA	Transport	
32	Rolls-Royce	Motors/Aircraft	
33	BICC	Electricals	
34	Young 'A'	Breweries	
35	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
36	Boole	Food	
37	North West	Water	
38	BOC	Industrials A-D	
39	Ultramar	Oil/Gas	
40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
9	BPB Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	BT	Industrials A-D	
11	Northumbrian	Water	
12	Grampian Hse	Industrials E-K	
13	Hickling Petroleum	Textiles	
14	McKee	Industrials L-R	
15	Logica	Electricals	
16	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
18	Rugby Group	Building/Roads	
19	Volvo	Electricals	
20	7MI	Industrials E-K	
21	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores	
22	House Of Lore	Drugs/Stores	
23	Severn Trent	Water	
24	MB-Canadon	Industrials L-R	
25	ACT Group	Electricals	
26	Tesco	Food	
27	Stern Water	Water	
28	Usher Walker	Paper Print/Ad	
29	Coats Vytella	Drugs/Stores	
30	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
31	BAA	Transport	
32	Rolls-Royce	Motors/Aircraft	
33	BICC	Electricals	
34	Young 'A'	Breweries	
35	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
36	Boole	Food	
37	North West	Water	
38	BOC	Industrials A-D	
39	Ultramar	Oil/Gas	
40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

INDEX-LINKED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
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40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Pearson	Newspapers/Pub	
2	Davies & Newman	Transport	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	By Land	Property	
5	Weir	Industrials S-Z	
6	Allied Irish	Bank/Discount	
7	Grand Met	Breweries	
8	BPB Ltd	Food	
9	BPB Ltd	Building/Roads	
10	BT	Industrials A-D	
11	Northumbrian	Water	
12	Grampian Hse	Industrials E-K	
13	Hickling Petroleum	Textiles	
14	McKee	Industrials L-R	
15	Logica	Electricals	
16	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
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33	BICC	Electricals	
34	Young 'A'	Breweries	
35	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
36	Boole	Food	
37	North West	Water	
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40	American	Chemicals/Plas	
41	Fort	Hotels/Caterers	
42	Color Cop	Oil/Gas	
43	Low Inl	Industrials L-R	
44	Thames Water	Water	
45	Thames Water	Water	

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Good gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 28. Dealings end November 8. Contango day November 11. Settlement day November 18. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
512	280	President	472	480	4	87
21	24	Barclays	167	17	10	13
147	147	Barclays	147	147	0	13
280	280	Barclays	280	280	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13
124	124	Barclays	124	124	0	13

BREWERIES

|--|

STOCK MARKET

City institutions return to equities

THERE are signs that City institutions have started investing in the equity market, cheered by further evidence that the economy is on the mend. Prices raced ahead, encouraged by the overnight rise on Wall Street and trading news from Marks and Spencer and Reed International.

Smith New Court, the broker, is believed to have carried out a buy programme in alpha

including 3 million shares in Sears, up 2p at 103p, 1 million Royal Insurance, down 3p at 296p, 1.8 million Pilkington, 1p firmer at 161p, 1.2 million Marley, ½p harder at 116p, 1.7 million British Gas, unchanged at 260p, 1.3 million BP, down 3p at 332p, 5.2 million Babcock International, up 2p at 60p, and 1 million Simon Engineering, 2p better at 271p.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR EARNINGS

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from October to October. The Y-axis represents price/index values from 500 to 850. The X-axis lists the months: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct.

- Share price (solid line):** Starts at approximately 550 in Oct, dips to 520 in Nov, then rises steadily to a peak of about 850 in May, before settling around 780 in the final Oct.
- FT all-share index (rebased) (dotted line):** Starts at approximately 550 in Oct, dips to 520 in Nov, then rises to about 650 in May, and ends at approximately 700 in the final Oct.

Source: *Financial Times*

the first downturn in interim profits for ten years. Pre-tax profits for the first half were down £15.1 million to £215.2 million after stripping out one-off exceptional losses of almost £17 million relating to redundancy costs at the head office. But the company cheered the City by reporting an encouraging sales lift in October. This is the first indication from the high street that spending is increasing.

from Southend Property Holdings, which failed in its attempt this year to win control of Frogmore. Regalian paid £13.96 million for the stake. By the close of business a total of 8.2 million Frogmore shares had changed hands. Regalian Properties was unchanged at 68p while Southend Property firmed 2p to 89p.

Grampion Holdings re-

Tesco reversed its slide with a rise of 6p to 236p despite a large seller on the overnight ticker. Morgan Stanley, the New York securities house, arranged a bought deal, picking up 9 million shares at 217p and selling them to a client at 220p. Talk about a price war has been depressing Tesco.

ceived a setback in its battle for control of the Macarthy pharmaceuticals group, 3p cheaper at 268p. One of Macarthy's biggest institutional shareholders, John Govett, with 18.3 per cent of the shares, says it intends to hold on to its shares. Gramplan Holdings rose 5p to 199p.

MICHAEL CLARK

MICHAEL CLARK

Dealings start today in Frost Group, the petrol station retailing group, with the shares expected to open at a 20p premium to the 235p offer price. Lists close tomorrow for JIB, the world's biggest insurance broker. The shares, offered at 195p, are expected to start life at 220p.

and beta companies. Dealers said the programme may have been carried out for M&G, which is believed to have started investing this week some of the £246 million proceeds obtained from the launch of its first investment trust.

Some large lines of stock went through on the ticker,

longer end showed gains of £¾.

There was plenty of support for the pharmaceuticals sector. SmithKline Beecham led the way with a rise of 44p to 807p after better than expected third-quarter figures this week. Robert Bauman, the chairman, says that earnings growth is being maintained, obliging analysts to

take another look at their forecasts for the full year. Andrew Porter, an analyst at Nikko Securities, is urging clients to switch from Glaxo to SmithKline. Glaxo lost 5p to 782p.

on Fisons, although the group has still to receive FDA approval for Tilade, its anti-asthma drug.

ICI hardened 27p to £12.87 before its third-quarter figures today.

Mr Porter says that Smith-Kline Beecham has been dull since the interims and now represents excellent value. Glaxo has been boosted this week by the American Food and Drug Administration's approval of Imigran, its anti-migraine drug, in an injectable form. But, Mr Porter says, Glaxo is now vulnerable to profit-taking. He is also keen

Invergordon firmed 3p to 268p as the hostile £350 million bid from Whyte & Mackay lapsed.

Hawker Siddelcy advanced 5p to 729p, still hoping to fend off the £1.5 billion bid from **BTR**, also 8p higher at 399p. At present, BTR speaks for 7 per cent of Hawker.

Marks and Spencer climbed 14p to 289p despite news of

to 474p, Kingfisher, 8p to 555p, WH Smith A, 3p to 456p, and Storehouse, 2p to 108p.

Reed International also

pleased the market by claiming it was starting to see the first signs of a fragile recovery in Britain. Results for the first half showed pre-tax profits 21 per cent down at £85.3 million.

The alarm bells are ringing again at Frogmore Estates after the shares touched 353p before settling 12p higher at 341p after rival Regalian Properties bought a near 10 per cent stake in the company. Regalian bought the stake

[illegible]

New York:		General:	5515.40 (-0.33)
Dow Jones	3065.52 (+3.58)	Paris: CAC	4937.71 (-1.87)
S&P Composite	392.20 (+0.72)	Frankfurt: DAX	492.6 (-0.6)
Nikkei Average:	24581.18 (-159.43)	FT-UK: S&A Gen	
Hong Kong:		FT-UK: S&A Gen	1242.37 (+9.93)
HSCEX	4030.04 (+1.95)	FT-UK: "500"	1389.38 (+1.84)
FTSE Euro 100	1101.22 (+1.26)	FT-UK: "100"	1389.38 (+1.84)
Amsterdam:		FT Fixed Interest:	95.74 (+0.10)
CSC Tendency	89.9 (-0.1)	FT Govt Secs:	86.96 (+0.09)
Sydney:		Burgundy	26306
ASX Composite	1663.7 (+12.2)	SEAD Volume	515.4M
Brussels:		USM (Datastream)	135.40 (-0.03)
Brussels: Euronext	1582.63 (-7.92)		

*Denotes midday trading price

RIBS:		Frigmore	340p (+11)
Cable & Wireless	569p (+8p)	Commercial Union	475½p (+12p)
Sothby's	700p (+12p)	Smithline Beecham	807p (+8p)
Fisons	461½p (+18p)	Legal & General	370p (+8p)
News Corp	540p (+10p)	Banks & Colman	687½p (+13p)
Read Int.	600p (+33p)	FALLS:	
UTI Newspapers	785½p (+11p)	Ferguson Intl	271p (-18p)
Laporte	582½p (+11p)	Alumac	379p (-11p)
Body Shop	306p (+10p)	Int Friendly	382½p (-11p)
Mellor & Spencer	291p (+16p)	Transport Dev	257½p (+1p)
RMC Group	589p (+10p)	Closing Prices Page 32	
Barclays	424p (+10p)		

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MONEY MARKETS

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COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Columbus may not have been the first European in America. Nigel Hawkes reports on the rival claims of the Norsemen

Will Vikings sail into New World history?

Work started this week on an archaeological research programme that could turn next year's celebrations of Christopher Columbus's discovery of America upside down.

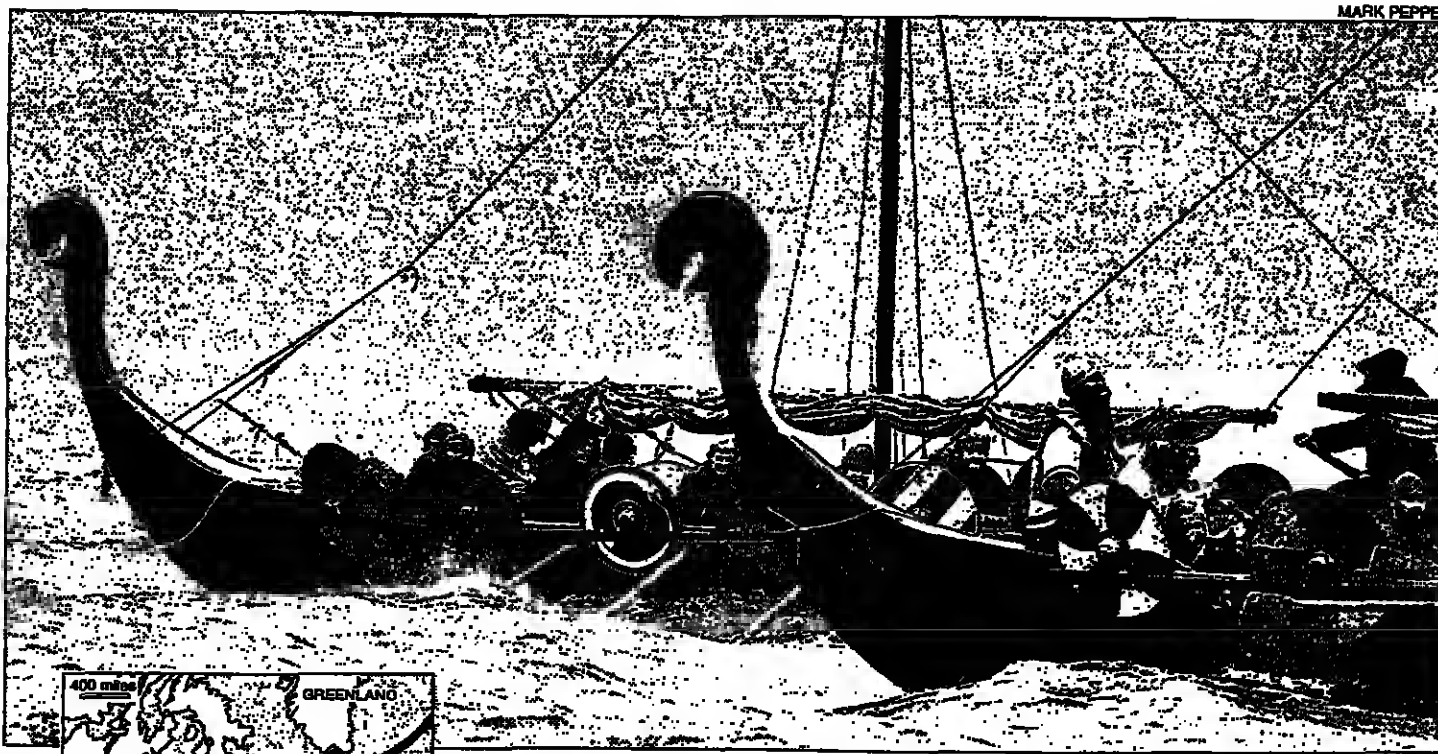
The Committee for Research on Norse Activities in North America has begun scientific investigation of an old puzzle: did Norse navigators settle North America centuries before Columbus made his voyage to the New World in 1492? The results are to be announced at a symposium in Ottawa in October 1992, at the height of the Columbus celebrations.

So far, the committee, which has members from Denmark, Greenland, Canada and the United States and is chaired by Jorgen Siemsen, a Danish businessman, has raised \$250,000 (about £147,000) to finance five projects. Mr Siemsen himself is convinced that Norsemen did settle North America, but says that the committee's aim is to encourage good scientific work. He adds: "We are not looking for sensations."

Hard evidence of Norse settlements is scanty, despite the claims made in the sagas, the epic stories of the Norsemen, and the good evidence that Norsemen, from settlements in Iceland, were able to make their way as far as Canada and the northern United States in the years between AD 1000 and 1500. The journey was recently repeated by a replica Viking ship, one of many built over the years.

The only well established site of settlement is in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, where the remains of eight buildings were found by a Norwegian expedition. Birgitta Wallace, an archaeologist with the Canadian Parks service and a member of the committee, has looked at more than 60 other sites with claimed Norse connections without finding any proof.

There are, however, intriguing scraps of evidence. One is a Norse penny minted around AD 1060 and found in 1957 at a site in Maine. Is the penny proof that Norsemen came this far south, or merely that Norse coins fell into the hands of Indian traders, who subsequently carried them to



Vikings as envisaged by Time Line, a history series filmed by an American television company. Left: the map shows how the Vikings are thought to have sailed to America

Maine? One of the projects financed so far is an excavation of the site to see whether more coins or artefacts can be found.

Another project, on which work started this week, will be a study of Newport Tower in Newport, Rhode Island, a strange stone structure with similarities to Norse buildings. Bruce Bourque, of the Maine State Museum and co-chairman, with Mr Siemsen, of the committee, doubts whether the tower is Norse and believes

excavation will reveal it to be a garden folly built around 1630 by early European settlers.

Scientific tests will be used to establish the origins of some iron "blooms", or ingots, left by Martin Frobisher, the British navigator, in Frobisher Bay during the 16th century. Nobody knows where these loaf-shaped ingots came from, and there is no evidence that Frobisher brought them from England, or that Indians or Inuits had the skill to make them. Carbon dating indicates that the blooms originated between AD 600 and 1400. The suspicion is that the blooms were Norse, and were discovered by Frobisher. Tests may reveal more about them.

In Europe, more tests are planned on coal found at the site of the oldest farm in Greenland, at Sandnes. The coal is anthracite, of a type not found anywhere in Greenland, Iceland or Denmark. Two sites where this coal might have been mined are known, at Newport and Portsmouth, Rhode Island, but more detailed tests using the latest analytical methods should pin it down exactly.

Evidence that coal found in Greenland had been mined in Rhode Island would certainly strengthen the claim that Norsemen got that far south. Similar tests are to be done on wooden artefacts found in Greenland, to try to identify the wood's source.

UPDATE Back from the brink

PANDAS are naturally bound for extinction and man is not to blame. Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, has declared. Without human intervention, they would have been extinct long ago. The agency quotes an unidentified scientist as saying, China is spending \$37 million (about £22 million) during the next ten years to preserve pandas. Including establishing 13 nature reserves. Scientific effort will be concentrated on artificial insemination because pandas have trouble reproducing.

Long-life mice

MICE fed a low-calorie diet live longer, are less prone to cancer and show fewer signs of ageing, a study at Tufts University in Massachusetts has shown. When their calories were cut by 40 per cent, the mice lived 29 per cent longer, and most cancers and age-related damage were reduced. The study is part of a programme funded by the US National Institute of Ageing.

Super-rice

A NEW rice plant yielding up to 30 per cent more than existing varieties should be ready in five to eight years, the International Rice Research Institute predicts. Ken Fischer, the institute's research director, says the new variety will have a longer growth period and more vigorous roots, and be sown directly from seed instead of being replanted in the traditional way.

Space booster

PRESIDENT Bush has signed a bill providing \$2 billion (about £1.2 million) for the American space station Freedom. Congress increased the Freedom budget by 7 per cent, which President Bush said is needed to keep the project on schedule this financial year.

No-go ozone

AMERICAN scientists have started a six-month programme involving flights over the northern hemisphere to study ozone levels. Satellite observations released last week have detected ozone depletion in the middle latitudes.

Deaf people get a fair hearing

A British computer-aided transcription system is helping the deaf in court cases

A NEW British computer-aided transcription system is likely to help profoundly deaf people when they are involved in court cases. The system was used in court this week for the first time.

The device, called the Palantype, is able to translate almost instantaneously machine shorthand into words and phrases that can be displayed on a small screen.

In Swansea Crown Court on Monday, it was used in a child-abuse case involving a 52-year-old deaf woman.

The system's development comes after increasing concern that even deaf people skilled in lip-reading or sign language might be getting unfair hearings because of the way in which evidence is presented to them.

In a murder trial at Cardiff Crown

Court last year, the defendant and six witnesses were deaf. Trevor Harris, a partner in the court-transcribing firm of Harry Counsell (Wales), which was asked to introduce the new system, says that a team of sign language experts was used, but the case, instead of lasting a few days, took two weeks.

Mr Harris believes that the new system could cut by a third the length, and thus

the cost, of cases involving deaf people.

The use of such a machine at the hearing in Swansea this week was particularly poignant because the defendant was not only profoundly deaf but could neither understand sign language nor lip-read.

The heart of the device, made by Possum Controls, of Slough, Berkshire, is a 26-key keyboard and a computer. A

court stenographer types into the machine words and phrases in shorthand, which are then relayed to the computer.

The software compares the shorthand with a 15,000-word memory and then presents the text on a small screen in the witness box.

Mr Harris says the device has about a two-second delay. If confronted with a shorthand word it cannot match, it will

display a phonetic equivalent. He adds: "Even if the word does not come up exactly, you can read the phonetic parts of that word and in the context of the sentence it will make sense." The system will also produce a disc and printed copies of the proceedings.

Mr Harris says that screens are also discreetly fitted for the judge and for defence and prosecuting lawyers.

The application of the system to a legal setting has been welcomed by Jack Ashley, the Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, who has used the device in the House of Commons. He says he hopes the system will be extended throughout the country's courtrooms.

NICK NUTTALL

Court of Appeal

Law Report October 31 1991

Court of Appeal

Community charge liability order

Regina v Bristol City Council, Ex parte Williams and Another
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Taylor and Sir George Waller
[Judgment October 17]

A local authority was not prevented by the relevant statutory provisions from seeking a liability order against a personal community charge payer before determining that person's claim for community charge benefit.

Moreover, the local authority's breach of its statutory duty to determine a claim to benefit within the period prescribed by the regulations did not, of itself, bar the seeking of a liability order.

That breach of duty was, nevertheless, a factor to be taken into account when deciding whether or not the authority's action in seeking a liability order in such circumstances was so unreasonable as to render it unlawful in accordance with the principle in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by the charge payers, John Williams and Karl Young, from the refusal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (*Regina v Bristol Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Williams and Another*, *The Times* April 5) of their application for judicial review of the decision of Bristol Justices on November 16, 1990, making

liability orders sought by Bristol City Council against them.

Mr Philip Engelman for the charge payers; Mr Nigel Giffin for the local authority; the justices did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the first issue was whether an authority could enforce a demand for payment of the personal community charge while the charge payer had an outstanding claim for benefit.

That involved a straightforward question of construction of the Community Charges (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations (SI 1989 No 438) and the Community Charge Benefits (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 1321).

The Divisional Court had picked its way through those regulations with admirable skill, and had arrived at what in the court's view, was the correct answer. As a matter of construction, the magistrates had not only been entitled, but had been obliged, to make an order in both cases.

Given that the statutory provisions did not prevent the charging authority from seeking a liability order before determining a claim for community charge benefit, Mr Engelman submitted that the authority's breach of its statutory duty had rendered unlawful, without more, its purported exercise of the power to seek a liability order.

He asserted that as a matter of

principle an authority could not lawfully exercise a power when it was in breach of a related duty. He had referred to *West Glamorgan County Council v Rafferty* (1987) 1 WLR 457.

In the court's judgment the reasoning in that case was correct and was equally applicable in the instant case. The authority's breach of statutory duty in failing to determine Mr Williams's claim in three weeks was not of itself a bar to proceedings for a liability order. It was a factor to be weighed with others in testing the reasonableness of the authority's decision.

Mr Engelman had further submitted that the authority's exercise of its discretion to seek a liability order was *Wednesbury* unreasonable. He had contended that there had been a failure to take certain relevant factors into consideration.

The factors relied upon were the breach of the authority's

statutory duty and the authority's own policy of not taking proceedings while the benefit claim was pending. He had further relied on the *Padfield* principle (1968) AC 997, that when Parliament conferred a discretion it had to be exercised so as to promote, not thwart, the policy and objects of the Act.

The authority's approach had been to press on with obtaining a liability order once a summons had been issued even if it was alleged at court that a claim for benefit was outstanding, but to undertake not to enforce the order until the claim, if any truly existed, was determined.

In the court's judgment that could not be regarded as unreasonable. It took into account, so far as was possible, the three factors relied on by Mr Engelman.

The appeals were dismissed. Solicitors: Mr Derek McConnell, Bristol; Mr Dudley P. Lewis, Bristol.

Newbery and Another v Turgitt Ltd
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment October 24]

A clause in a contract for the sale of land, which provided that the balance of purchase money was to be paid on completion and if not then paid was to bear interest, had the effect (i) that the vendors were entitled to interest if any delay occurred which was not due to default on the part of the purchaser, and (ii) that the vendors were not entitled to withhold a sum from the balance of the purchase money under condition 22, as that condition was inconsistent with the interest clause and so, by an exclusion clause, was not incorporated into the contract.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when dismissing an appeal by the defendant purchasers, Turgitt Ltd, and allowing a cross-appeal by the plaintiff vendors, Clarence Claude

Newbery and Minnie Winifred Newbery, from an order of Judge Hywell Moseley, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division of the Bristol District Registry, in March.

The judge had held, *inter alia*, (i) that the delay that had occurred between the agreed and actual dates of completion was due to wilful default by the vendors, who were therefore not entitled to interest, but that they were entitled to a sum representing the rents and profits on the property, and (ii) that the purchasers were not entitled to withhold a sum from the balance of the purchase money under condition 22, as that condition was inconsistent with the interest clause and so, by an exclusion clause, was not incorporated into the contract.

Both parties appealed and cross-appealed.

Clause 5 of the land sale contract provided: "The [General Conditions] shall be deemed to be incorporated herein so far as the same are not inconsistent with the terms hereof."

Clause 8, after stating the completion date, continued: "... at which time the balance of the purchase moneys shall be paid and if not so paid shall bear interest at [a specified rate]."

Condition 22, a complex provision headed "Compensation for late completion", provided: "(1) ... (b) a party is in default if and to the extent that the period ... of delay exceeds the period ... of delay of the other party."

"(2) If the sale shall be completed after the contractual completion date, the party in default (if any) shall be liable to compensate the other for loss occasioned in him by reason of that default."

By paragraph (3) the party entitled to compensation had an option to be paid, as liquidated damages in settlement of his

claim for compensation, a sum calculated at the contract rate (as defined) on the amount of the purchase money.

Mr Michael Templeman for the purchasers; Mr John Martin, QC, for the vendors.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the delay in completion was due to the fact that it took some time to resolve difficulties arising from the discovery that certain charges against the land had been registered, which the vendors did not know about and had no reason to suspect.

The purchasers claimed to be the party entitled to compensation under condition 22(2) for loss occasioned to them by alleged default of the vendors, and also to have exercised the option conferred by condition 22(3).

Clause 8 of the contract operated as an agreement by the purchasers to pay the balance of the purchase money on the completion date, and interest if it was not paid on that date.

Although there was no comparable covenant by the vendors to pay interest to the purchasers, it was the effect of established equitable rules that the purchasers' obligation did not apply if the delay in completion was caused by default by the vendors; but it did apply if the delay was due to default by the purchasers or to something which was not the fault of either party.

The decision in *In re Debenham and Jeffery's Contract* (1944) 1 All ER 364 was, on proper analysis, consistent with that approach.

The judge's finding that the vendors had been guilty of wilful default was, on the facts, untenable, if the test of default or wilful default was that the vendors or their solicitors failed to do something that it was reasonable to do in the circumstances.

After consideration of the law on that matter, his Lordship said that the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 had abolished the rule in *Bain v Fothergill* (1874) LR 7 HL 158 that a vendor who was unable to make a good title through an unforeseen defect in title was not in default, but that was only in relation to a date (September 26, 1939) which was subsequent to the date of the contract in the present case.

In any future case arising under a contract entered into after September 26, 1989, a vendor would be in default if he failed to clear before the contractual completion date any defect in his title which became apparent between contract and completion, of which he had been unaware at the date of the contract, however reasonable his conduct might have been.

It would therefore be in the interests of a prudent vendor to search in the land charges registry for unexpected registrations against his title before he exchanged contracts for sale.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that condition 22 was not incorporated into the contract as there was inconsistency between clause 8 and condition 22. Under the former, the vendors were entitled to interest provided that their own default had not caused the delay in completion, while under the latter they would only be entitled to compensation if their loss was attributable to default on the part of the purchasers.

The appeal should be dismissed and the cross-appeal allowed.

Solicitors: Cross & Cross, Exeter; Bevan Ashford, Exeter.

Scots Law Report October 31 1991

Showing video tapes to jury

Steele v HM Advocate
Before the Lord Justice-General (Lord Hope), Lord Morrison and Lord Murray
[Judgment September 26]

Where a video tape recording was led in evidence at a criminal trial, the jury were free to make up their own minds about what it portrayed, and were not obliged to consider only the guidance given them in evidence by witnesses who spoke to what the tape showed.

The High Court of Justiciary, sitting as the Court of Criminal Appeal, so held, in allowing an appeal by Kevin Steele and David Landells from their conviction of theft by housebreaking to the extent only of substituting therefor convictions of rape of theft.

Mr Paul McBride for Mr Steele; Mr Neil Murray for Mr Steele; the Home Advocate Depute (Mr Roderick MacDonald, QC).

THE LORD JUSTICE-GENERAL said that the sheriff had directed the jury about a police surveillance video tape recording that they could not draw any conclusions themselves from

their viewing of the recording and that they had to be guided by the evidence of the witnesses as to what they believed they saw on the tape, if they accepted that evidence.

Mr Murray argued that the video tape itself was the best evidence of what was to be seen on it and the jury were therefore entitled to form their own views as to what that was. The Crown responded that there had to be evidence from witnesses about what the tape portrayed. The jury's function was limited to deciding whether what the witnesses said was to be believed.

On the one hand there was the rule that the jury had to proceed only on the evidence and that it was not open to them to speculate about matters which they could not determine on the evidence that had been led before them. For that reason, the jury was required to speak to such essential details as the place and time and the identity of persons or things shown.

On the other hand, as had been observed in *Hopes and Lavery v HM Advocate* (1960) JC 104, 111 it was undesirable to prolong a trial by a long series of

re-playings of the tape, and it would equally be wrong for the jury to re-play the tape outwith, the presence of the parties when considering their verdict.

So it was likely to be of advantage for the witnesses to be asked to give their own opinions as to what was being shown on the tape in order that the jury's minds could be directed to the relevant points while the tape was being played. But, except in cases where some particular expertise was required, to understand what was going on, the jury were free to make up their own minds, about what the tape revealed. It was necessary for them to be provided with a running commentary about every detail.

The sheriff's direction was not accurate as a statement of general principle. But in the circumstances, where so much about what was seen on the tapes was disputed and the facts could not be left to speculation by the jury, it might well have been appropriate. The court was not persuaded that it was a misdirection. The court allowed the appeal on other grounds.

Solicitors: McCourts, Gordon McBain & Co; Crown Agent.

Conditional company resolution invalid

Currie v Cowdenbeath Football Club Ltd
Before Lord Penrose
[Judgment September 27]
Where a company resolution proposed to remove a director "if as a matter of fact, the person is presently a director of the company", it was incompetent.

Lord Penrose so held, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, granting interim interdict against the holding of an extraordinary general meeting of Cowdenbeath Football Club Ltd, to consider the removal of Tom Currie and John Marshall as directors.

Section 303 of the Companies Act 1985 provides: "(1) A company may by ordinary resolution remove a director."

Mr Colin Campbell, QC, for Mr Currie and Mr Marshall; Mr Stuart Nicoll for the respondents.

LORD PENROSE said that

the respondents had already brought a petition in which they averred that the present petitioners had resigned as directors. The respondents had been granted interim interdict against the petitioners holding themselves out as directors.

They had now called an extraordinary general meeting to consider a proposed resolution which said: "That if, as a matter of fact (Mr Currie/Mr Marshall) is presently a director of the company (which contention is subject to dispute involving action within the Court of Session), he be removed as a director."

In his Lordship's opinion section 303 did not contemplate action depending upon a contingency of that kind. Section 303 procedure was designed exclusively for the removal of persons who were at the material time directors. The petitioners accordingly had a *prima facie* case justifying interim interdict.

Solicitors: McGrigor Donald; A. & W. M. Urquhart.

Evidence for pre-trial stay case

Regina v Manchester Crown Court, Ex parte Brokenshaw
Before Lord Justice Watkins
[Judgment October 24]

A pre-trial application to stay criminal proceedings for abuse of process had to be decided on the evidence before the judge, as he had no power to compel discovery of any other evidential material.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Tudor Evans) so held on August 7 in dismissing applications by Mr R.C. Brokenshaw, Mr J. D. Cunningham and Mr R.B. Kilin for judicial review of decisions of Judge Hardy at Manchester Crown Court concerning his refusal to order discovery of documents and stay their trial, on charges of conspiring to defraud creditors

and related offences, on the ground of abuse of process.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that a judge had to determine a pre-trial application on the possibility of there being no fair trial for the defendant on the material before him, provided both by the prosecution and the defence. He was not in a trial situation nor was his inquisitorial role. He could not, therefore, compel any other evidential material to be provided.

The witness summons procedure under the Criminal Procedure Act 1965 related to the trial on indictment and was not applicable outside the confines of the trial itself.

Solicitors: Cross & Cross, Exeter; Bevan Ashford, Exeter.

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Little's try seals third place for New Zealand in a disappointing play-off in Cardiff

All Blacks overcome inadequacies

New Zealand..... 13
Scotland..... 6

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THESE play-off matches are to mean anything, they have to develop a life and character of their own — as did the game at Rotorua in 1987 when Wales beat Australia for third place in the 1987 World Cup. Sadly for two great rugby-playing nations, so akin to each other, yesterday at Cardiff Arms Park offered nothing like the farewell to the 1991 World Cup either would have wished.

New Zealand have the consolation, if that is what it is for All Blacks, of third place in the tournament by virtue of their win by a try and three penalty goals to two penalties. That they were not out of sight long before Little scored the try (in injury-time) is a testimony not so much to Scottish virtues as to their own inadequacies.

This New Zealand party has, throughout the tournament, lacked the killer instinct which has for so long been characteristic of their rugby. When they required it, against Australia in the semi-final on Sunday, they discovered it was no longer there and yesterday, again, they failed to produce the telling thrust which might have broken Scottish resistance which centred, as it so frequently does, on the physically small but lion-hearted Armstrong.

It was fair criticism, however, from John Hart, New Zealand's co-coach, that the game should have been played only three days after the epic Dublin semi-final. "Why not Thursday, or even Friday?" he asked. "I do think the third-place game is of more commercial value than playing value. The tournament comes to an end when a team is beaten."

It was fitting that Little should have provided the coup de grace. How New Zealand have come to omit him from most of their calculations over the last month only they know but time and again he broke the advantage line, only for the handling of others to evaporate. He, at least, had something to prove; too many of his colleagues played like men intensely weary by the demands of a long domestic season topped off by this last, intensive month.

New Zealand's interval lead of 6-3 did nothing to reflect their domination in a match so untidily played, and referred, that it was no surprise that the frustration of the players expressed itself in less



Finding the gap: Michael Jones, of New Zealand, bursts through Jeffrey and Armstrong at Cardiff yesterday, with Kirwan in support

than acceptable forms in the second half. Lee, the prop, was fortunate to receive only a stern warning after stamping on Armstrong.

Scotland did well at the lineout. White having a particularly effective game, but the Scottish scrum was distinctly negative; twice they conceded their own put-in, shunted off the ball, and Innes produced a splendid diagonal run as a result before his support was squeezed out. On other days Wright might have scored two tries, one at either end of the match, but Gavin Hastings was equal to him.

It was Hastings who opened the scoring on a mild afternoon, when nearly 40,000 turned up to pay their respects to a tournament which has brought little joy to Wales. But Preston, who had a mixed day with his kicking (three out of seven), first levelled matters then kicked New Zealand into the lead seven minutes before half-time. He might have had a try too but for Weir's tackle at the corner flag.

The Scots tried to take play forward through their back row but any aspirations they

might have had behind the scrum were limited when Dods replaced Stanger after the wing suffered a hip injury. Dods has many qualities but, like New Zealand's Crowley on Sunday in Dublin, speed is not one of them.

If Scotland were to re-establish themselves they had to do it after Preston's third penalty, when Wright was caught under a high ball and pinned on his own line. Sole, then Armstrong were held but it was symptomatic of the game that White, from attacking scrums, was unable to get his pass away to the blind-side wing.

Though Gavin Hastings reduced the gap to three points with three minutes remaining, after Brooke's dangerous tackle on Lincen, New Zealand had sufficient energy to make their way downfield and so pressurise the defence that the Scots, running a penalty out of their own 22, lost the ball. Though Philpott and Wright came close to making a nonsense of it, Little was freed to sweep down the left touch and score.

SCORES: New Zealand: Try: Little (Penalties: 3/4). Scotland: Penalties: 2/4. **NEW ZEALAND:** J. Wright (Auckland), J. Kirwan (Auckland), G. R. Jones (Auckland), W. K. Little (North Harbour), V. L. Tuganalaia (Auckland), S. C. McDowell (Auckland), S. B. T. Fitzgerald (Auckland), R. W. Lee (Wairarapa), A. T. Earl (Canterbury), I. D. Jones (North Auckland), G. W. Whetton (Auckland), captain, M. W. Jones (Auckland), Z. V. Brooke (Auckland). **SCOTLAND:** A. G. Hastings (Warrington), A. D. Stanger (Hawke), M. P. Dods (Glasgow), S. Hastings (Warrington), S. R. P. Lincen (Boroughmuir), I. Tuganalaia (Auckland), C. Chalmers (Aberdeen), G. Armstrong (Leeds), D. M. A. Sole (Edinburgh Academical), A. P. Burnett (London Scottish), J. Jeffrey (Keele), C. A. Gray (Nottingham), D. W. Weir (Melrose), S. Street (Strathclyde), D. A. White (London Scottish). **Referee:** S. R. Hilditch (Ireland).

Armstrong move is denied by manager of Widnes

By ALAN LORIMER

RUMOURS that Gary Armstrong, the Scotland rugby union scrum half, is ready to sign for Widnes were scotched yesterday by John Stringer, the club's general manager, who denied any interest in the Jed-Forest player. "Armstrong is certainly not for us, in spite of the fact that he would be an ideal rugby league player," Stringer said yesterday.

"We already have two very good half backs in David Hume and Stuart Spruce and, moreover, our cash-flow situation is delicate just now, having spent a lot on player's contracts over the past few years. That makes it unlikely that we will be investing in

any rugby union players, despite the wealth of talent around," he added.

Armstrong has been the subject of such rumours for some time, but has consistently denied any intention of changing codes, although such a move might increase his earnings (he is a lorry-driver) considerably. Aged 25, Armstrong could play for Scotland in the next World Cup along with his half-back partner, Craig Chalmers, whom Stringer identified as a possible target for rugby league clubs.

"Gavin Hastings and Tony Stanger would, in my opinion, also make fine league players,

but I doubt if Hastings would contemplate a move at this stage in his career," Stringer said.

The Scotland team will definitely lose both flankers, John Jeffrey and Finlay Calder, but the third member of the back row, Derek White, has not decided whether to retire. David Sole, the captain, has already stated that he intends playing at international level for a few more seasons with the intention of fulfilling several remaining ambitions.

Elsewhere in the pack Chris Gray must be a possible candidate for retirement and among the replacement forwards David Milne must surely be at the end of the road but amongst the backs all appear to be prepared to continue at international level.

Lee Jackson, the Great Britain hooker, returns to the Hull side for today's Regal Trophy preliminary round tie against Leigh. Jackson has been suffering from a rib cartilage injury.

Wigan's international scrum-half, Andy Gregory, has fractured a bone at the base of his thumb but will carry on playing with his hand strapped up rather than have it put in plaster.

TV record expected

ITV officials believe there will be a British record television audience for a rugby union match on Saturday when England meet Australia in the Rugby World Cup final at Twickenham.

Bob Burrows, head of sport for ITV, said yesterday: "Early forecasts of England's semi-final win over Scotland are that between nine and ten million tuned in, which is most encouraging. There are

clearly more people watching rugby than ever before in Britain."

ITV released figures yesterday for the quarter-finals, showing that nearly 7.5 million viewers watched the closing stages of England's match in Paris. The average figure for the match was 6.3 million, compared to an average of 4.9 million to see the grand slam decider between the two sides on BBC last March.

Game shows it is going places

Two days and a single match are all that remain of the 1991 World Cup. The ultimate destiny of the Webb Ellis Cup is still in doubt but it is now appropriate to reflect on the tournament, what it has achieved, where it might have gone wrong and what are the positive factors to emerge from four weeks of intensive rugby.

My overriding impression is that it has been great for the game. Rugby has moved on to a different plateau. Never before have so many people watched the game around the world.

I am both astonished and delighted to see English football clubs change their Saturday kick-off times after feeling the effects at their turnstiles of a rugby semi-final between Scotland and England. This explosion of interest has to be to the long-term good of the game.

The 1987 World Cup never achieved this. Crowds were then fairly poor for some of the games but this time the interest has been immense. I applaud the decision to stage matches such as Italy v United States, Australia v Argentina and New Zealand v United States in provincial centres. The venues for these matches, Otley, Llandelli and Gloucester, were centres of great interest and atmosphere. Most were sell-outs.

There have been many positive aspects to this tournament. You now have a sport which is a truly world game and which I suspect will see the traditional eight nations which originally formed the International Rugby Football Board coming under pressure from emerging nations such as Western Samoa and Canada. These countries have improved out of all recognition.

This process, which is to be welcomed, can only be enhanced at the 1995 tournament when, I hope, South Africa, Namibia and perhaps the Soviet Union will be present. There is no reason why the great old eight should continue to be the dominant forces in playing and administrative terms. Everybody else is starting to catch up.

What has happened this last month has dispelled the illusion that rugby league is a bigger game than union. League is played seriously in

five countries in the world; union is almost everywhere.

Another excellent aspect to this tournament has been the television coverage. It has been extremely good and I feel the BBC has really missed the boat. The first time the highest competition in the history of the sport arrives in the British Isles and Ireland, the BBC was not there. ITV started from scratch but its achievement has underlined the fact that the BBC coverage in the last few years has been a bit drab.

I like the use of three commentators. And those people have been prepared to be controversial. That is all for the good. The use of cameras in our dressing-room has been handled tactfully.

Nobody from ITV assumed they had a right to come in, and they were never pushy, but when they did come in, the film crew was discreet. We trusted them and they trusted us and that has been repaid.

I have been less than enamoured with some others. People from Sky just seem to fire their cameras at you. You didn't even know when some shots were being taken. It is almost as though they were hiding behind the wall.

that the tournament has highlighted the need for certain law changes. While I concede the game sometimes needs adjustment, I maintain there is little wrong as it stands.

The matter of a greater points disparity between the try and the penalty goal has been argued about since I started playing. There is no ideal answer. Follow the advice of some who advocate a five-point try with only two points for a penalty and you will find teams infringing and giving away penalties by the sackload. They will do anything to avoid conceding a try. Would that make for open, flowing rugby?

Some countries seek to diminish the power of the scrum but that phase of the game offers men and boys of all shapes and sizes the opportunity to play the game. The same goes for the lineout. I do not think that there have been too few outstanding games. Some great matches have been played and, besides, people are missing the point. We are playing rugby union, not 13-a-side rugby league or seven-a-side union. Make major changes and the new game, whatever it is, would not be rugby union as we know it.

It is the opinion of some

England must make early start in Poznan

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND were denied a possible European championship advantage yesterday when Uefa ordered kick-off times in the final round of qualifying matches to be standardised.

England had been scheduled to start against Poland in Poznan on November 13 at 7pm GMT — about 45 minutes after their group seven rivals, the Republic of Ireland, finished their match in Istanbul against Turkey. The Irish, who are disputing a qualifying berth with England, had protested that their rivals may have been given an advantage if they knew their target before playing the Poles. Yesterday, Uefa decided at a meeting in Zurich that the kick-off times in Istanbul and Poznan should both be 5.30pm GMT.

Sean Connolly, the secretary of the Football Association of Ireland, welcomed the decision. "It solves the problem of England possibly gaining an advantage by knowing what they have to do in Poland," he said, "but I think Uefa would have taken this action anyway without being nudged by us."

Graham Taylor, the England manager, said: "Whatever the kick-off time, we know our task is to either secure a victory or draw and then we will qualify for Sweden next summer."

Uefa also ruled that the matches in which Scotland play San Marino and Romania face Switzerland in group two will both start at 2.30pm. The Switzerland manager, Uli Stielike, had protested that an afternoon draw in Bucharest would leave Scotland knowing exactly how many goals they needed against San Marino at Hampden Park later that evening.

However, the Scots have protested about the decision. A statement from the Scottish Football Association last night said: "We have received the official notification from Uefa and as far as the Association is concerned, the matter is not finalised. We will be making further representations to Uefa in due course."

There was further bad news for Taylor and England yesterday when it was confirmed that David Batty, the Leeds United midfielder, is likely to miss the game in Poznan through injury. Batty was admitted to hospital on Tuesday for emergency treatment to an infected ankle wound, sustained during the game against Turkey at Wembley earlier this month. The problem was described as "serious" and Batty will be sidelined at least three weeks.

The Republic yesterday gave a surprise call to Liam Daish, the Cambridge United defender, to join their squad for the visit to Turkey. Daish, 23, has only just regained his first-team place at Cambridge after an operation to cure a back problem.

Niall Quinn, of Manchester City, and Ray Houghton, of Liverpool, return to the squad after missing the 3-3 draw in Poland earlier this month through injury, while John Sheridan, of Sheffield Wednesday, is recalled as a midfield replacement for Andy Townsend, of Chelsea, who faces a hernia operation.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: In Turkey in Istanbul on November 13: P. Bonner (Chelsea), G. Payton (Everton), C. Morris (Colchester), A. Stanton (Aston Villa), G. Irwin (Manchester United), T. Phelan (Worcester), M. McCarthy (Millwall), P. McGrath (Aston Villa), D. O'Leary (Aston Villa), K. Morris (Blackburn), L. Daish (Cambridge United), K. Stoney (Everton), A. McLaughlin (Aston Villa), L. Cavanagh (Colchester), N. Quinn (Manchester City), J. Aldridge (Nottingham Forest), J. Byrne (Sheff Wed), R. Houghton (Liverpool), J. Sheridan (Sheff Wed), R. Keane (Nottingham Forest).

Ford in new deal for Indy engines

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

A NEW twist to the 30-year association between the Ford Motor Company and Cosworth Engineering, the Northampton-based racing engine manufacturer, emerged yesterday when Ford announced it was to act as a sponsor of an engine that Cosworth had designed as a completely independent exercise.

A 2.65-litre V8, to be known as the Ford-Cosworth XB, has been designed for the Indianapolis 500 and other races in the Indy-CART World Series.

Next season the new Ford-

Cosworth engine will be used by two former grand prix drivers and at least one with Formula One potential: Mario Andretti, the 1978 world champion, his son, Michael, the 1991 USAC champion, who is delaying his entry into Formula One for a year, and Eddie Cheever, the former Arrows grand prix driver.

The decision to go ahead with the new Indy engine follows news that for the first time since the inaugural race in 1959, there will be no United States grand prix in the 1992 Formula One calendar.

Sapsford found lacking in zest

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ROSS Matheson, of Glasgow and Arizona State University, produced the one giant-killing act of the day at Telford yesterday. It was hard, though, to tell who was giant and who the slain as Matheson is 6ft 4in and 192lb, his victim, Danny Sapsford, hardly the role model for Goliath.

But Sapsford, hero of the British Davis Cup team just six months ago, was the No. 3 seed at the Volkswagen national tennis championships, while Matheson was a promising junior last seen seeking his fame and fortune on the American college circuit.

The Lawn Tennis Association did not put anything structured in front of me, so, in a sense, I had no option. Matheson said, his Glasgow accent still solid behind the twang.

Sapsford had just come back from an exhausting trip to Mexico and his heart was anywhere but in the match. His critical faculties had clearly stayed in Acapulco. He didn't hit his groundstrokes great, he didn't move great, he didn't play great," he said of Matheson, who slightly begged a question: Why did Sapsford lose 6-2, 6-2?

"I'm empty at the moment," he said. "I have no feelings for winning and losing and I have no enthusiasm or determination." That's what he said and a half weeks in Mexico does for you, Sapsford has been through lower before and the probability that Britain

will play their world group Davis Cup match, against France, next January, on indoor clay in Bayonne might give him the necessary incentive to recover. Clay is rather more to his liking.

Matheson was understandably pleased with his victory, not least because it will put his name back under the auspices of the LTA. When he finishes his studies in May, he wants to play full-time and he will need some time to find the first rung of the ladder. The basis of his game is a big serve and a sense of self-belief developed over several years at the Universities of Oklahoma and Arizona State, where his day consists of three-and-a-half hours on court and another two in the gym. "It's an apprenticeship for a professional career," he said.

Mark Petchey, another refugee from Mexico, fared rather better. He cast off a jet lag long enough to beat Colin Beecher 6-4, 7-5 and Andrew Castle, an old boy of Kansas University, reached the third round with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Alex Rouse. In the women's singles, Monique Javer, the No. 3 Virginia Humphreys-Davies, who came to within two points of victory at 6-5, 30-0 in the second set before losing the next 11 points.

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